OSPREY MILITARY

MEN-AT-ARMS SERIES 55

NAPOLEON'S DRAGOONS AND LANCERS

EMIR BUKHARI ANGUS McBRIDE

First published in Great Britain in 1976
by Osprey, an imprint of Reed Consumer Books Limited
Michelin House, 81 Fulham Road
London SW3 6RB
and Auckland, Melbourne, Singapore and Toronto

© 1976 Reed International Books Limited

Reprinted 1977, 1981, 1982, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1992, 1993

All rights reserved. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study, research, criticism or review, as permitted under the Copyright Designs and Patents Act, 1988, no part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, electrical, chemical, mechanical, optical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without the prior permission of the copyright owner. Enquiries should be addressed to the Publishers.

ISBN 0 85045 088 8

The author gratefully acknowledges the considerable debt owed by some of the illustrations to the published researches of M. Lucien Rousselot. He also wishes to express his thanks to Gerry Embleton, Jean de Gerlache de Gomery, Michel Risser and the staff of the Musée Royale de l'Armée (Bruxelles), the Musée de l'Armée (Paris) and the National Army Museum.

This book is for Sue A.

Printed in Hong Kong

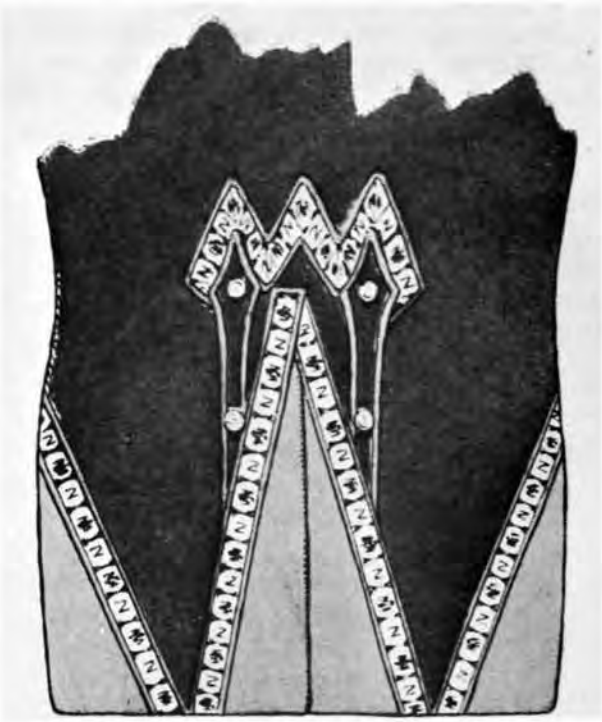
The Men

From the great victories of Marengo and Hohenlinden in 1800 to the terrible defeat of Waterloo in 1815, France was to call up a total of 1,600,000 men of whom a mere 600,000 were to survive. Little, perhaps, in comparison to the giant levies and losses of the wars of this century, but what matter cold statistics to the man who has to do the soldiering? Whether armed with pike, musket or anti-tank gun, the grisly reality remains the same.

In 1803, undeclared war was renewed between the principals of the near-farcical Peace of Amiens, France and Great Britain, and the Frenchman once again found himself liable to be called up. Conscription had existed for some while in post-revolutionary France. Introduced originally by decree of the Convention on 14 February 1793, the law had been both modified and extended by order of the Directory on the 8th Fructidor An VIII. A bachelor aged between twenty and twenty-five, our potential conscript was now obliged to present himself at his local depot for the draw, a 'lucky dip' designed to select which out of every seven prospective candidates would actually join the ranks. Let us suppose that our man was unlucky.

This young Frenchman, along with the other seventh of the conscripts, was now destined to serve under the nation's banner indefinitely: until old age, crippling wounds, death or the cessation of hostilities culled him from the ranks. Prospects were therefore far from bright, since all Europe was ranged and pledged to destroy the young republic of France. But it was this same democracy so feared by France's neighbours that had reinforced her soldiers with the necessary idealism and had maintained her inviolate for the last eleven years. Our conscript was fired with the revolutionary notion that France belonged to her people and was no longer the plaything of a jaded aristocracy, and it was this that gave him the will to win.

This was no army of embittered conscripts. Born under the Monarchy, raised during the turbulence of successive revolutionary régimes, this generation had a sense of freedom—a possession worth dying for. To them, neighbouring rulers were prepared to go to any lengths to preserve their thrones from the free-thinking philosophies which had so recently stemmed from the Americas; and Great Britain's



The skirt of the Imperial Livery as worn by the French line lancers, showing the decoration of the small of the back and the turnbacks. Unlike the rear of the dragoon trumpeters' tunic, the lancers' is devoid of false pockets and all the attendant piping and lacing. Instead, it has only slim piping of regimental colour forming points above each of the waist-height buttons, the Imperial lace decorating the rear of the tunic proper, and further lengths of the same lace along the turnbacks. In this case plain, the turnbacks might easily bear yellow or green eagle patches (depending on the colour of the facings) or the flaming grenade device if the owner was trumpeter to an élite company. (National Army Museum)

renewed hostility was proof that the misguided peoples of all Europe were being slowly coerced into obliterating the fledgling republic that could provide them their own salvation. What might have been dull resignation to military service was, in fact, more a dogged determination to preserve both the motherland and the freedom which was the birthright of France's oppressed neighbours.

Having been inoculated against smallpox, the conscripts next presented themselves at their barracks for roll call and food hand-out. The following day they would be issued their equipment and, soon after, their uniforms.

The pay book of one Claude Defrère itemizes the issue as follows: one tunic; one fatigue jacket and cap; one chemise; one pair of linen trousers; one white and one black collar; four handkerchiefs; two pairs of cotton and one of woollen stockings; three pairs of shoes; one grey and one white pair of gaiters; one cloth bag and a hide haversack; and finally, two cockades. Equipment would include a cover for the cartridge-pouch, a screwdriver, a needle for piercing cartridges and clearing the touch-hole of the musketoon, and an instrument for extracting musket balls; as well as a helmet, cartridge-pouch, sabre, bayonet and musketoon. All these items were the conscript's personal and absolute responsibility; were any article lost or damaged, he was obliged to repair or replace it out of his pay. The durability of such things as the webbing being no less than twenty years, it was clearly very difficult to serve without having to pay the army for the pleasure, as the following extracts from the army record of Trooper Clavieux of the 28th Dragoons attest:

01.1.1810:	—Boot repairs	0.90F
19.1.	—One pair of shoes	6.00F
10.2.	—One pair of overalls	6.50F
18.2.	—Leather wax & harness buckles	0.85F
25.2.	—One pair of gaiter straps	0.60F
26.2.	—One harness buckle, a tin of grease and a grease brush	1.29F
07.3.	—One sponge	0.80F
16.3.	—One copper brush & boot repairs	0.75F
24.3.	—One pair of scissors	0.98F
03.4.	—One pair of grey gaiters	2.20F

One of the many slightly different types of copper helmet worn by the rank and file of the chevau-légers lanciers. Basically no more than a dragoon helmet, it does, however, boast a rear peak and large horsehair crest. On this model we note a strap and buckle with which to secure the chinstraps under the jaw, rather than the more common lengths of leather thong. (National Army Museum)

04.4.	—Boot repairs	0.75F
11.4.	—One pair of shoes	6.00F
27.5.	—One horse brush & a scabbard	6.25F
26.5.	—One headband for helmet	0.35F
	—One tin of grease and a brush	0.79F
	—One plume holder, two scales and a rosace for the chinscales	0.95F
	—One feed bag	2.00F
	—Repairs to bed linen	0.10F
	—Repairs to musketoon	0.37F
	—Soldering of new guard to sabre	1.25F
10.7.	—One chemise	4.00F

14.7.	—Resoling of shoes	2.50F
	—Grease, shoe repairs and an attachment to the horsecloth	0.70F

Thus, in twenty-six weeks, Trooper Clavieux was down 46.08F in equipment alone; add to this his punishment fines and he was out of pocket a total of some 126 francs as against an earning of approximately 54.60 francs!

The list below, drawn from Trooper Defrère's pay book, indicates the official estimate as to the durability of items of dress and equipment:

Dress:			
Habit-veste:	2 yrs	Shakos:	4 yrs
Gilet à manches: (stable jacket)	2 yrs	Greatcoat:	3 yrs
		Fatigue-cap:	2 yrs
Trousers:	1 yr	Bearskin:	6 yrs
Equipment:			
Swordbelt:	20 yrs	Musket-sling:	20 yrs
Cartridge-pouch:	20 yrs	Drum and sticks:	20 yrs
Crossbelt:	20 yrs	Horns and trumpets:	20 yrs

Poor indeed was Clavieux and his like among the conscripts, but theirs was one great redeeming consolation: they were cavalrymen.

The barracks (or stables as they were more aptly called) were cold, damp and drab establishments, as likely as not converted church properties confiscated following the repudiation of direct Papal authority by the Constituent Assembly's Act of 1790. At least a quarter of their total area was confined to the stables proper, where the all-important mounts were housed, whose care and maintenance were entrusted to the dragoons.

An NCO of the 3rd Lancers in action. His medium-green tunic and overalls would have pink facings and lace respectively. The red epaulettes inform us that he is a member of the élite company while the red chevrons on his left upper sleeve denote a period of between sixteen and twenty years service. His helmet appears to have a leopard skin turban, which would suggest he has lost his own and has made do with an officer's retrieved from the field. (National Army Museum)

A trumpeter of a centre company of the 1st Lancers in the uniform decreed by the 1812 Regulations. His tunic is the Imperial Livery adopted by all musicians of line regiments after 1812. The facings are scarlet, as is the piping on the shoulder-straps, and the trumpet cord. There were two such trumpeters in every squadron of lancers, bringing the regimental effective to a total of eight under the command of a trompette-brigadier or trompette-major. (National Army Museum)

The horses were acquired by each regiment independently in one of two fashions: by direct purchase from bloodstock merchants or local farmers, or by requisition against a promise of future settlement. By the latter means, up to 500 head of four years or less were frequently stripped from individual *départements*, ruining many citizens who were left with but a paper pledge that the authorities would one day pay them as much as 400 francs per horse—if and when . . . At such cost, albeit often unpaid, these animals were rightly considered more valuable than the men who rode them and therefore, when not being instructed as to how to remain seated upon them, the recruits were obliged to lavish considerable care on the grooming of the beasts and the mucking-out of their stalls. However, no amount of care makes up for substandard horseflesh and, by and large, the Flemish and Norman breeds ridden by dragoons, though of great strength, were both too slow and too heavy.

These, then, were the men and their responsibilities. But they were not just any band of individuals sorted and labelled cavalrymen; they were mounted infantrymen, trained to be equally adept with musket and sabre, and proud of that distinction. Though their role was to become increasingly similar to that of heavy cavalry, theirs was a distinguished heritage. Originally mounted for the sake of mobility but generally fighting on foot, they evolved into an army equally at home sabring at the charge as firing dismounted, becoming neither light nor heavy but medium cavalry by the time of the Revolution.

Dragoon Uniform

Of the sixty-two regiments of cavalry inherited from the *ancien régime*, only eighteen were dragoon regiments, but the re-organizations of 1791 and 1792 raised the number to twenty, then to twenty-one. Only in 1803 did Napoleon Bonaparte, as First Consul, bring the number to thirty: thirty on paper that is, for the additional nine regiments were dragoon in name only. Formed of six of the old 'cavalry' regiments and three of hussars, the men remained for some while dressed and equipped as though their old units had never been disbanded; as late as 1805 the three former hussar regiments (the *7eme(bis)*, *11eme* and *12eme Hussards*) had still not received their full quota of dragoon uniforms and accoutrements. Thereafter, however, all regiments were more or less uniformly dressed and equipped. The regiments were distinguished not

only by their number but also, more readily, by the colours adopted for the facings of their tunics.

Tunics

The middle-green tunic or 'habit' of dragoons was contrasted by areas of cloth of a distinctive colour. These regimental colours, their position and the direction of the false pockets on the skirt of the habits distinguished the regiments, as the table below portrays:

Pockets:	Table of regimental facings					Position:
	Scarlet	Crimson	Pink	Yellow	Orange	
Horizontal	1	7	13	19	25	Lapels, turnbacks, cuffs & flaps, collar
	2	8	14	20	26	Lapels, turnbacks & cuffs
	3	9	15	21	27	Lapels, turnbacks, cuff-flaps & collar
Vertical	4	10	16	22	28	Lapels, turnbacks, cuffs & flaps, collar
	5	11	17	23	29	Lapels, turnbacks & cuffs
	6	12	18	24	30	Lapels, turnbacks, cuff-flaps & collar

Wherever the facings were of one of the distinctive colours, they would be piped in the same middle-green as the tunic; where a facing remained middle-green, as for example the cuffs of the 18th Dragoons, it would be piped in the regimental colour (in this case pink).

A total of thirty-three pewter buttons ornamented each habit. Embossed with the regimental number, the buttons came in two sizes: twenty-two small ones of which seven were placed on each lapel, one on each shoulder (to which the shoulder-strap or epaulette would attach) and three on each cuff-flap; and eleven large ones, of which three were at the top of the right hand skirt, two were in the small of the back and one was in each angle of the two trefoil pockets on the skirt.

From 1804 until 1812, the habit changed slightly in its cut, becoming 'sharper' under the influence of civilian dress as the years passed; however, the 1812 pattern was distinctly slimmer and shorter than the 1804 model. The appearance of the turnbacks was the most obvious alteration: at first genuinely folded back and secured by stitching to one another at their angle, they became false and stitched along their entire length. The illusion of a true turnback was at first maintained by the retention of the triangle of middle-green visible beneath their juncture, but towards 1810 this practice ceased, leaving the fake turnbacks flush with the bottom of the skirts.

A white waistcoat was worn beneath the habit and the cutaway front of the habit revealed its twin pockets at the waist, and single row of pewter buttons.

An alternative to the habit was the middle-green *surtout* worn in everyday wear, exercise and, despite the frowns of superior officers, frequently on campaign. Regulation until 1809, it was single-breasted with six to nine pewter buttons, and had no lapels, pockets, cuff-flaps or, often, shoulder-straps or epaulettes. Occasionally decorated with the regimental colour on the same facings as the habit, it was more often entirely middle-green. Its cut was slowly modified, as was that of the habit. It

was worn in conjunction with either the waistcoat described above or a similar but round-fronted, and occasionally double-breasted type.

Dated 8 February 1812, a regulation altering the dress of all line troops ordained the abolition of the old-fashioned habit and the introduction of the *habit-veste*. The habit-veste differed in that it fastened to the waist and had a considerably shorter skirt, but the basic colour and the regimental facing colours and their positions remained identical to those of the old issue. The regulation further specified that the old pointed waistcoat was to be replaced by a round-fronted model, invisible beneath the habit-veste. However, contemporary illustrations show many troops wearing the old habit after 1812 and, of those clad in the habit-veste, the points of the old waistcoat frequently protrude beneath the front of the tunic: the orders of the Ministry of War should therefore not be taken too literally.

Legwear

The calf-length, off-white, coarse hide riding breeches common to dragoons were as often as not replaced for all but parade dress by overalls of highly diverse cut, pattern and colour. Most frequently made of unbleached fabric with similarly coloured cloth-covered buttons along the length of the outside leg, overalls were also made of almost any combination of grey or middle-green cloth, with cloth-covered or white metal buttons and regimental coloured piping or lace. The inside leg and crotch were often reinforced with leather, cut straight, or into 'wolves' teeth', along the length of the leg and forming a cuff of varying height about the calf. The 1812 Regulations, for the first time officially recognizing the use of this garment, specified that they would henceforth be of unbleached (almost any tone of greyish-beige) cloth with cloth-covered buttons down the outer leg. There is no reason to suppose that this decree was regarded with any more reverence than any other.

Greatcoats and capes

The three-quarter length, sleeveless greatcoat-cum-cape worn until at least 1812 was often in an off-white fabric (white thread mixed sparingly with blue) though middle-green versions were not unusual. A short, elbow-length cape was attached about the base of the collar to protect the webbing (worn over the coat) from the elements. The interior was lined on each side of the single back vent and the front opening with serge of the regimental colour. The 1812 Regulations introduced a more sophisticated model: sleeves were added, with large cuffs; the front was equipped with five buttons with which to fasten it, while the cape was given four for the same purpose; two hip-height pockets were put in and, finally, the coloured serge of the lining was removed.

Headgear

The distinctive headgear of dragoons was their

An officer and dragoon in walking-out dress, Consulate period. On the left, an elegant officer draws tight his kid-skin gloves in preparation for a night on the town. The dark waistcoat, black cashmere breeches and black woollen stockings are distinctive of winter wear; in the summer he would sport a white waistcoat, fine linen breeches and silk stockings. Otherwise the costume would remain the same from his silver-tasselled felt bicorn to his silver-buckled shoes. Note the straight épée in lieu of the cumbersome sabre.
On the right, a dragoon trooper makes off for his particular haunt. The uniform differs from parade dress only in the use of shoes and stockings in place of gaiters and knee-length boots. Of interest is the fuller mane of horsehair on these early helmets and the considerably baggier cut of the tunic in contrast to later patterns. (National Army Museum)

helmet: a copper* cap encircled by a fur turban, with a heavily embossed copper crest supporting a black horsehair mane, a peak, and chinstraps of either plain leather or copper scale, attached by a rosace. Many models existed, some of which are illustrated, and there were variations on each: copper-edged or plain peaks; copper-edged or plain, round or pointed turbans; and innumerable varieties of crest ornament.

For parade dress, a plume was inserted in the copper holder just forward of the left hand chinstrap rosace. The length, volume and colours of these plumes appear, like most details appertaining to uniforms, to vary endlessly not only from regiment to regiment, but from squadron to squadron and year to year. The table below, compiled from the contemporary evidence of Martinet and the information contained in the Alsation Collections for the year 1807, demonstrates but a fraction of the inconsistencies and contradictions available to anyone patient enough to tabulate the existing records:

Plume colours

White: 4th, 5th, 8th, 11th, 16th, 17th, 19th, 21st, 23rd, 24th, 28th and 29th.
Red: 1st, 2nd, 9th, 17th, 22nd and 30th.
Crimson: 10th.
Green base with top of regimental colour: 1st, 2nd, 6th, 19th, 20th and 25th.
Red and green: 7th, 8th, 12th and 13th
Red and white: 12th and 18th.
$\frac{2}{5}$ red, $\frac{2}{5}$ white and $\frac{1}{5}$ red: 3rd.
White and yellow: 20th, 22nd and 24th.
Base black with top of regimental colour: 7th and 23rd.
Green with a yellow top: 23rd.

Contemporary portraits confirm some, but produce still more possibilities for the above regiments, and the present writer does not feel he is shirking any responsibility by leaving it to the individual reader (or conglomerates for that matter) to complete the catalogue of possibilities at their leisure.

The 1812 Regulations, no doubt recognizing the difficulty, ordered plumes to be replaced by discs of the following colours for each company of each squadron: *first company:* red, sky-blue, orange or violet; *second company:* as the first but with a white centre. This rather thoughtfully narrows the odds, but, given that plumes were retained for some while by many regiments, only widens the range of potential combinations within any one regiment at any given date.

Replacing the helmet for fatigue dress was the *bonnet de police*, a middle-green cloth cap. It was composed of a 'turban' and 'flame': the uppermost edge of the turban was edged in white lace and piped in the regimental colour; the flame was piped in the regimental colour and ended in a white tassel. The front of the cap bore a white or regimental coloured grenade badge. The 1812 Regulations introduced an entirely new model of fatigue cap called the Pokalem.

The middle-green Pokalem cap consisted of a turban, a large, round, flat top and ear-flaps, all piped, laced and decorated, with either a grenade or the regimental number, in the appropriate colour.

Lancer Uniform

The organizational Decree of 15 July 1811 also specified the dress of the *chevau-légers lanciers*. As for dragoons, the regiments were distinguished by the colours of the facings of the tunic.

Tunics

The habit-veste of the lancers differed just a little from that adopted by the dragoons in 1812, the only

* Throughout this text the literal translation 'copper' for *cuivre* is used, but note that this term refers in this context to a yellow alloy rather than a pure red copper.

large difference consisting in the cuff being pointed rather than straight with a buttoned cuff-flap. The lapels were reversible—that is, they could be either buttoned back and joined by hooks and eyes down the front to reveal the facing colour fully; or buttoned across, to right or left, to cover all but a narrow strip of regimental colour. This middle-green tunic was lined in white and had collar, turnbacks, cuffs and lapels of the following distinguishing colours:

1st Regiment: scarlet.
2nd Regiment: orange.
3rd Regiment: pink.
4th Regiment: crimson.
5th Regiment: sky blue.
6th Regiment: madder red.

The turnbacks were supposed to be decorated with Imperial eagle patches but were frequently devoid of any ornamentation whatever. None of the facings were decorated with piping. All thirty-two buttons were of yellow metal.

Trumpeters of a regiment of dragoons of the *ancien régime*, c.1789. The livery seen here was abolished with the Revolution and the dress of trumpeters became, until the issue of the Imperial Livery in 1812, a matter left to the discretion of each regimental colonel. The result was colourful if not a little confusing since, as colonel replaced colonel, trumpeters tended to be dressed in whatever fabric was locally most plentiful and cheap, with complete disregard (for the most part) of any precedent, as long as the colour sufficiently distinguished the trumpeters from the men. (National Army Museum)

A sleeveless white waistcoat, round-edged, was worn beneath the habit-veste and was fastened by a row of yellow metal buttons. A sleeved, plain middle-green shell-jacket was worn in stable and fatigue dress.

Legwear

The lancers' equivalent of the off-white breeches worn by the dragoons were middle-green Hungarian breeches. These were laced down the outer leg and the edges of the front flap in yellow. The ornament of the flaps consisted of a simple inverted arrowhead device for the 1st to 4th Regiments, while the 5th and 6th favoured a fairly complicated Hungarian knot.

Middle-green overalls, reinforced with black leather, with a strip of lace of the regimental colour and yellow metal buttons down the outer leg were the most common campaign dress in the period immediately following the creation of the lancer regiments. As the wars progressed, however, variations still more diverse than those of dragoons became apparent. Contemporary illustrations capture the men of the 2nd Regiment wearing, in 1814, grey overalls otherwise conforming to order; troops of the 4th clad in overalls of middle-green with leather reinforcements and two parallel strips of lace down outer seams devoid of buttons; and finally, men of the 6th sporting patterns made of madder red cloth, without piping or lace but complete with buttons. With this garment it was very much a case of 'anything goes' as but a cursory glance at the colour plates will reveal.

Greatcoats

The greatcoat common to all lancers was the model already described for dragoons after 1812; a sleeved and caped, white-threaded-with-blue, button-up overcoat over which the webbing would be worn.

Head-gear

The distinctive head-dress of lancers was no more than the dragoon model helmet with modified embellishment. Where the dragoons' copper crest bore a horsehair mane, the lancers' supported a

This trumpeter of the élite company of the 21st Dragoons, c.1810, is colourfully dressed in a yellow surtout with medium-green facings. The surtout tunic often replaced the habit on campaign, being more comfortable and less expensive. The bearskin has a scarlet plume, white cords and tassels and copper chinscales. An unusual feature is the use of white trefoil shoulder straps instead of the more usual red, fringed epaulettes distinctive of élite companies. The trumpet cord is here a mixture of white and green thread, where yellow and green would be more common. Note the knot in the horse's tail, a fairly widespread practice. (National Army Museum)

neo-Grecian horsehair crest; where the rear of the dragoons' copper cap was simply rounded, the lancers' received a second, rear peak to protect the back of the neck from cuts and rain.

These were the differences, but there is in their comparison one striking similarity: a great deal of perplexity concerning the plumes. Contemporary illustrations portray red and white ones entirely similar to those of dragoons soon after the creation of the regiments, but increasingly few helmets are represented with any plumes at all as the end of the Empire approached; indeed, many existing lancer helmets have no plume holders whatsoever. Do we assume that, upon conversion to lancer regiments, the troopers retained their old dragoon unit plumes? A possibility, as long as the colour did not clash with the new regimental colours, which would account for the recording of so many red and white ones. But then what of the 1812 Regulations' order to replace plumes with company-coloured discs? The writer has yet to find a period drawing depicting a lancer's helmet with such a pompon. It is perhaps possible that with the order abolishing the plume, lancer regiments never received the disc pompons and were quite happy, if not relieved, to do without both them and their tall plumes.

The fatigue-cap was identical to that of the dragoons, with the exception of the grenade patch at the front. As of 1812, they too were issued the flat-topped Pokalem model with the substitution of crossed lances for the grenade badge.

Having now completed a superficial examination of the basic dress of both dragoons and lancers, it would be interesting to delve a little further into the more specific dress of the different ranks of both arms, but space requires this be left to the illustrations and captions. Instead, we shall turn our attention to the much-neglected subject of saddles and harness.

Horse Furniture

Dragoons

A Decree dated the 4th Brumaire An X prescribed the form of horse furniture of dragoons as comprising French saddle, complete with holster covers, horse-cloth and portemanteau; bridle; snaffle-bridle and parade halter; and stable halter and bridle.

The saddle, including the pistol holsters and seat, was of plain leather while the girth was of fabric; the stirrup leathers and the martingale were of white Hungarian leather; the stirrups were of blackened iron; the breastplate, securing straps and crupper were of black leather. The bridle and reins were also of black leather, as were the snaffle-bridle, the parade halter and their reins.

The pistol-holster covers and the horse-cloth were of middle-green fabric, edged with white lace 45mm wide. The middle-green portemanteau, strapped upon the saddle behind the rider, bore the

Attached to the élite company, this Chef de Sapeurs of the 30th Dragoons would command a force of eight sappers whose duties lay in clearing the way for the column and protecting the regimental standard. The rank and service stripes are silver, piped in red, and the cords and tassels adorning his bearskin are mixed silver and red thread, as are his epaulettes. He wears a long hide apron and crossed-axe patches, familiar symbols of his status. (National Army Museum)

regimental number and lace 27mm wide on its rectangular ends.

The 1812 Regulations gave official sanction to the widespread practice of placing a white, sheepskin shabraque over the whole of the saddle. This shabraque would be edged in 'wolves' teeth' material of the regimental colour.

Officers' saddles were without cantle and covered in green fabric. Green leather holsters and bronzed stirrups differentiated them further from those of the troops. The horse-cloth was middle-green and edged with a single stripe of silver lace for subalterns; and two stripes (the inner being thinner than the outer) for more senior officers.

Like the men, officers employed sheepskin shabraques, but of only half-size and in black. It would seem that their use was never officially recognized but their popularity is well established, protecting, as they did, not only the pistols and holsters, but the greatcoat which was tied over the holsters, and the lower body of the rider.

Lancers

The saddle of lancers was of entirely different composition to that of dragoons. Beechwood, reinforced with metal bands, formed the base and, with the suspended seat, was covered in leather. All the reins and other accessories were of black leather, bar the straps for the greatcoat and the pistol, which were of white leather, and the musketoon securing strap, which was of yellow leather.

The bridle was of the Hungarian pattern as adopted by all light cavalry and made of black leather with copper ornaments throughout, except for the iron bit. The watering, snaffle-bridle was of white Hungarian leather.

Sapper of the 1st Dragoons, 1806–1811. This relaxed fellow wears the standard sappers' uniform, but for a couple of embellishments: his bearskin has been adorned with a copper grenade badge, a popular symbol among the élite dragoons, and his crossbelts have not only similar badges but also large copper buckles and accessories. His apron has been rolled up, no doubt to facilitate mounting and dismounting, and is held in place by his swordbelt. It should be remembered that only dragoon regiments were accorded the use of sappers out of respect for their traditional role as mounted infantry. (National Army Museum)

The portemanteau, middle-green and laced in yellow, was strapped behind the cantle while the greatcoat was tied over the pommel and holsters. The whole was covered by a white sheepskin shabraque (frequently black for trumpeters), edged in 'wolves' teeth' of regimental colour.

The officers' saddle was essentially the same, though the cantle was covered in green Morocco leather and finished in copper. All the leathers were black, excepting the stirrup leathers in yellow, and all buckles and other diverse metal ornaments were gilded, save the bronzed stirrups. The officers used a cloth shabraque of middle-green embellished with regimental colour piping and golden lace. The portemanteau was of the same colour, piping and lacing.

Both the portemanteaux and the horse-cloths of dragoons and lancers bore the regimental number in either white or yellow lace.

Having seen, however briefly, the horse furniture of dragoons and lancers, we shall now turn to the organization of the regiments.

Organization

The conscripts would be organized into companies of two troops. By order of the Decree of the Ier Vendémiaire An XII (24 September 1803), the company was to total fifty-four mounted troops and, for lack of even remotely usable mounts, thirty-six dismounted troops. The balance of the company was composed of one trumpeter, for the mounted men, one drummer, for the dismounted, four *brigadiers* (corporals), one *brigadier-fourrier*, two *sous-lieutenants*, one lieutenant and a captain.

Two such companies formed a squadron: the smallest tactical unit of cavalry. The only addition to the ranks at this stage would be a *Chef d'Escadron*.

Four such squadrons made up a regiment. With each regiment was an *Etat Major* which comprised eight sappers (farriers for lancers), one *brigadier-sapeur*, one *maréchal des logis chef* or *maréchal des logis*, one *brigadier-trompette*, one *brigadier-tambour*, one *adjutant-sous-officer*, one *adjutant-major* and, finally, a colonel. Several amendments, both official and unofficial, were made to this unit structure over the years, including, inter alia: by the Decree of 26 February 1808, the *maréchal des logis/maréchal des logis chef* were to be removed from the *Etat Major*; and, a regimental inventory dated 15 May 1811 mentions the acquisition of a trumpet-major and the retention of the *maréchal des logis chef* (the regimental sergeant major) by many dragoon regiments.

But the above relates only to an ideal situation; very few regiments were, other than on paper, of full trooper strength and as for the officer and *Etat Major* complement, let us let the following extracts from the '*Historique du 7eme Dragons*' speak for themselves of the fluctuations:

Situation d'avril 1809

Etat nominatif des officiers:

Etat Major: —*Colonel.*—*2 × Chefs d'Escadron.*
—*Major.*—*1 × Quartier-Maître trésorier.*

1er Escadron:

1ere Cie: *1 × Capitaine, 1 × Lieutenant, 2 × Sous-Lieutenants.*

5eme Cie: *1 × Capitaine, 1 × Lieutenant, 2 × Sous-Lieutenants.*

2eme Escadron:

2eme Cie: *1 × Capitaine, 1 × Lieutenant, 1 × Sous-Lieutenant.*

6eme Cie: *1 × Capitaine, 1 × Lieutenant, 2 × Sous-Lieutenants.*

3eme Escadron:

3eme Cie: *1 × Capitaine, 1 × Lieutenant, 1 × Sous-Lieutenant.*

7eme Cie: *1 × Capitaine, 1 × Lieutenant, 1 × Sous-Lieutenant.*

4eme Escadron:

4eme Cie: *1 × Capitaine, 1 × Lieutenant, 2 × Sous-Lieutenants.*

8eme Cie: *1 × Capitaine, 2 × Lieutenants, 1 × Sous-Lieutenant.*

Situation du 1er juin 1812

Etat nominatif des officiers:

Etat Major: —*1 × Colonel.*
—*1 × Major.*
—*2 × Chefs d'Escadron.*
—*1 × Quartier-Maître.*
—*2 × Adjutants-Major.*
—*1 × Chirurgien-Major.*
—*1 × Aide-Major.*
—*1 × Sous-Aide-Major.*

1er Escadron:
1ere Cie: 1 × Capitaine, 1 × Lieutenant, 2 × Sous-Lieutenants.
5eme Cie: 1 × Capitaine, 2 × Sous-Lieutenants.

2eme Escadron:
2eme Cie: 1 × Capitaine, 2 × Sous-Lieutenants.
6eme Cie: 1 × Capitaine, 1 × Lieutenant, 1 × Sous-Lieutenant.

3eme Escadron:
3eme Cie: 1 × Capitaine, 1 × Lieutenant, 1 × Sous-Lieutenant.
7eme Cie: 1 × Lieutenant, 2 × Sous-Lieutenant.

4eme Escadron:
4eme Cie: 1 × Capitaine.
8eme Cie: 1 × Capitaine, 1 × Lieutenant, 2 × Sous-Lieutenant.

5eme Escadron:
9eme Cie: 1 × Capitaine, 1 × Lieutenant, 2 × Sous-Lieutenants.
10eme Cie: 1 × Capitaine, 1 × Lieutenant, 2 × Sous-Lieutenants.

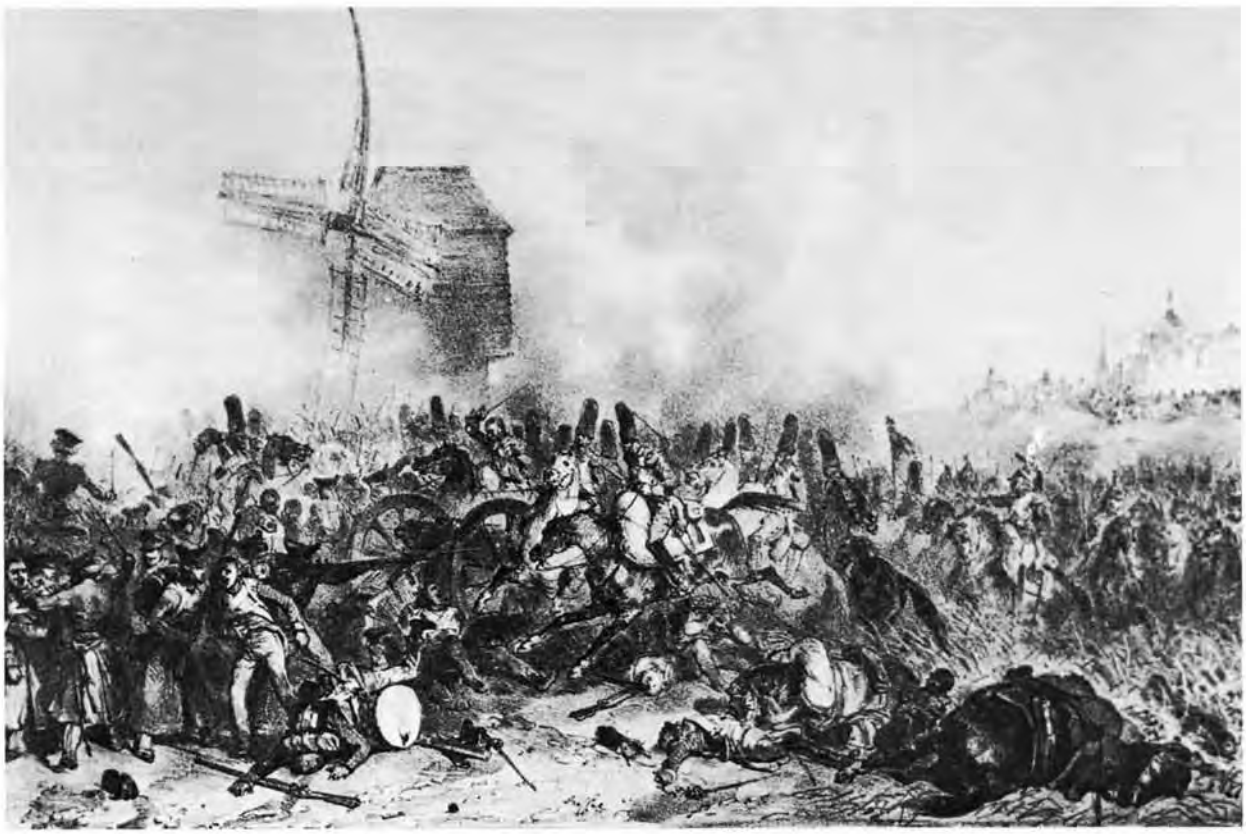
Etat des officiers aux escadrons de guerre le 1er juillet 1813

Etat Major: — 1 × Colonel.
— 2 × Chefs d'Escadron.
— 1 × Adjutant-Major.

1er Escadron:
1ere Cie: 1 × Capitaine, 1 × Lieutenant, 1 × Sous-Lieutenant.
6eme Cie: 1 × Capitaine, 1 × Lieutenant, 2 × Sous-Lieutenants.

2eme Escadron:
2eme Cie: 1 × Capitaine, 1 × Lieutenant, 2 × Sous-Lieutenants.
7eme Cie: 1 × Capitaine, 1 × Lieutenant, 1 × Sous-Lieutenant.

Officiers dont les compagnies ne sont pas encore a l'armée:



An élite company of dragoons crushing a Russian infantry square, 1814. The tremendous loss in horses during the Russian campaign of 1812 irreparably damaged the Grande Armée's cavalry units with the result that however successfully an action might be fought, it could never be followed up with the decisive destruction of the retreating foe. Thus, despite the brilliant engagements executed by Napoleon's troops, the results of the German and French campaigns of 1813 and 1814 respectively were a foregone conclusion, given a co-ordinated allied command. (National Army Museum)

Two troopers of the 23rd Dragoons act as escort to visiting top brass. About them are troopers and a trumpeter of the Chasseurs à Cheval of the Imperial Guard, the crack light cavalry regiment of Napoleon's personal guard. (National Army Museum)

3eme Cie: *1 × Capitaine, 1 × Lieutenant.*
8eme Cie: *1 × Capitaine.*

It is clear then that regiments, whether dragoon or lancer, were only very exceptionally fully officered, let alone manned, and the duties of the vacant post would fall on the man of next highest rank.

As previously mentioned, thirty-six men were without mounts within the early dragoon regiments and these were formed into separate and distinct divisions of foot dragoons.

The Foot Dragoons

There were four different instances when necessity forced the formation of foot dragoon divisions: at the camp of Boulogne in 1803; on the Rhine in 1805; in Italy in 1805, and lastly in Germany in 1806.

Boulogne, 1803

Further to the directives of Generals Baraguey d'Hilliers and Klein, two divisions of foot dragoons were established of the following composition:

Klein's Division:
—Millet's Brigade (2nd, 4th and 10th Dragoons).
—Millet's Brigade (11th, 13th and 19th Dragoons).
—Ferrol's Brigade (1st, 14th and 20th Dragoons).

Baraguey d'Hilliers' Division:
—Louis Bonaparte's Brigade (5th, 9th, 12th and 21st Dragoons).
—Bonnard's Brigade (3rd, 6th and 8th Dragoons).
(Letter of Ministry of War dated 24 October 1803)

Each regiment provided two squadrons of two companies and, where necessary, any mounts were returned to the regimental depots.

Each foot dragoon was supplied with a pair of shoes, a pair of long black gaiters, a greatcoat and a haversack (to which his riding boots were tied).

A centre company of the 16th Dragoons is devastated by fire from Prussian infantry. On this occasion, 28 October 1806, the Prussian Grenadier Battalion 'Prinz August' defended itself against no less than three cavalry regiments. Of interest is the manner in which the dragoons' musketoons are slung over their shoulders rather than inserted in the boot slung below the saddle and attached to the pommel of the saddle by a leather strap.

The long, heavy cavalry cloaks and any saddles and harness were packed into baggage wagons and despatched to Boulogne for the prospective crossing. Only colonels and majors were permitted to retain their mounts which were to be allowed to embark.

As it was, however, hostilities with Austria precluded the sea-borne invasion and the regiments regained their respective depots as of August 1805 to prepare for the Bavarian campaign.

The Rhine, 1805

An order issuing from the Ministry of War and dated 25 August 1805 established a single division of four regiments of foot dragoons at Strasbourg. The twenty-four regiments of Baraguey d'Hilliers' corps of four divisions each supplied one squadron of two companies. The six companies normally forming a brigade now became a battalion and the two battalions of a division now equalled one regiment. The four regiments produced in this manner created an infantry division of 7,200 men equipped with ten cannon and organized as follows:

Colonel Privé's 1st Regiment:

1st Battalion: —One squadron of the 1st, 2nd and 20th Dragoon regiments.
—Guidon: that of the 1st Dragoons.

2nd Battalion: —One squadron of the 4th, 16th and 26th Dragoons.
—Guidon: that of the 4th Dragoons.

Colonel Le Baron's 2nd Regiment:

1st Battalion: —One squadron of the 10th, 13th and 22nd Dragoons.
—Guidon: that of the 10th Dragoons.

2nd Battalion: —One squadron of the 3rd, 6th and 11th Dragoons.

An élite trooper of the 15th Dragoons. Elite companies were created following the Decree of 18 Vendemiaire An X (10 October 1801) which stipulated, *inter alia*, 'The first company of the first squadron of every cavalry regiment shall take the name of élite company. That company will be formed of men chosen from throughout the regiment who conform to the instructions of the Ministry of War.' Their élite status was to be indicated by the wearing of tall bearskins basically no different from their counterparts in the infantry; but the men soon began to sport red epaulettes and even aiguillettes to further distinguish themselves, to which officialdom turned a blind eye. (The Jean de Gerlache de Gomery Collection)

—Guidon: that of the 3rd Dragoons.

Colonel Beckler's 3rd Regiment:

1st Battalion: —One squadron of the 5th, 8th and 12th Dragoons.
—Guidon: that of the 5th Dragoons.

2nd Battalion: —One squadron of the 9th, 6th and 21st Dragoons.
—Guidon: that of the 8th Dragoons.

Colonel Barthélemy's 4th Regiment:

1st Battalion: —One squadron of the 15th, 17th and 25th Dragoons.
—Guidon: that of the 15th Dragoons.

2nd Battalion: —One squadron of the 18th, 19th and 27th Dragoons.
—Guidon: that of the 27th Dragoons.

(Amended from a slightly erroneous list of General Baraguey d'Hilliers, dated 9 Fructidor An XIII)

The above division was only provisional and contingent on the arrival of sufficient horses to mount all the troops (the colonels were never replaced in their old regiments). By the end of September the first two regiments were partly remounted and, on 20 October, the remaining two were issued captured Austrian hussar and lancer horses.

Though the ranks were soon refilled, these units were never intended to be other than temporary.

A trooper of the élite company of the 12th Dragoons dismounted to fire his piece. The tying of the greatcoat about the body was a common practice to protect the breast from sabre slashes and, to a lesser degree, musket balls. While on campaign, the hide breeches would be replaced by button-up overalls of almost every description and the plume of the bearskin would be packed in the saddle's portemanteau, to preserve it for the victory parades which would, hopefully, follow. (The Jean de Gerlache de Gomery Collection)

A trumpeter of the élite company of the 16th Dragoons in campaign dress, 1806. He wears a pink surtout tunic and a splendid white bearskin. An interesting point is that the tassels and cords have been left on the head-gear, as has the plume, though the latter has been carefully wrapped in waterproof fabric to protect it from the elements. He rides a grey as did all trumpeters. (The Jean de Gerlache de Gomery Collection)

The morale of the troops was low and they consequently shaped-up rather badly, marching abominably and executing poorly the everyday functions of infantry from lack of both practice and good will. The sole benefit derived from the foot regiments was the fact that the enemy eventually paid for their mounts and, with the end of the campaign, the regiments were disbanded and the individual squadrons sent to rejoin their respective mounted regiments.

Italy, 1805

In Vendémiaire of An XVI, Marshal Masséna organized a battalion of foot dragoons drawn from the 23rd, 24th, 28th, 29th and 30th Dragoons and attached them to General Verdier's 2nd Division. Their number never exceeded 333 troopers (as recorded the 1st Brumaire) and the battalion was dissolved in January of 1806.

Germany, 1806

In order to take advantage of the wasted manpower present at every regiment's depot, Napoleon ordered the formation of a foot corps of two regiments of foot dragoons (12 September 1806). In an attempt to obtain better results from the ill-humoured men than hitherto experienced, the regiments were to be attached to the Imperial Guard.

General Dorsenne created the 1st Regiment at Mayence with companies of the 2nd, 14th, 20th and 26th Dragoons forming the 1st Battalion and companies of the 6th, 11th, 13th and 22nd the second. His regiment was duly appended to the Grenadiers à Pied of the Imperial Guard.

Major Fredericks organized the 2nd Regiment at Strasbourg with companies of the 8th, 12th, 16th and 21st forming the 3rd Battalion and companies of the 17th, 18th, 25th and 27th Dragoons the 4th. This regiment was assigned to the Chasseurs à Pied of the Imperial Guard.

The foot-slogging proved mercifully brief, for the troops were soon mounted on captured Prussian and Saxon horses in October and November of the same year. The squadrons were promptly despatched to their parent regiments.

This last action marked the final official attempt to employ dragoons as infantrymen for however short a period, since even the honour of being attached to the Guard did little to improve the quality of their performance and turnout. Popular references to officially organized units of foot dragoons existing as late as 1808 are based on originally faulty sources.

* * *

Before turning to the histories and war records of the individual regiments, a brief word on the creation of the lancers from dragoon regiments would not be out of place.

The effect of the lance used by foreign cavalry regiments on Napoleon's troops was far from desirable and, in an effort to reassure the men of French supremacy in all arms, the Emperor duly issued the Decree of 18 June 1811, ordering the establishment of nine line lancer regiments. The last three were created from two Polish cavalry regiments and a French regiment, the 30eme Chasseurs à Cheval, while the first six were formed

of the 1st, 3rd, 8th, 9th, 10th and 29th Dragoons.

The lancers only came into existence by the end of 1811 and the élite lancers, at length, by the summer of 1812. The regiments took part in the Russian campaign, often ill-equipped and mounted, protecting the flanks of the long columns as well as screening their movements. These light horse proved invaluable, the lance being a weapon of pronounced effect on the morale of both enemy cavalry and infantry, and it is strange that their creation was so tardy given their long use in other continental armies.

War Service of Individual Regiments

The war records of the individual regiments on the following pages should be considered in the particular light of Napoleonic warfare or, more correctly, of the type of war Napoleon waged.

A trooper of the 12th Dragoons wrapped in the large cavalry cloak issued until 1812. As of that date a slimmer, sleeved version was issued. The plume of the helmet has been wrapped in waxed cloth as protection from the rain and wind. (The Jean de Gerlache de Gomery Collection)

A trooper of a centre company of the 2nd Lancers, 1814. He wears one of the many types of overalls used to cover or replace the tight Hungarian breeches on campaign. The points of his waistcoat are clearly visible beneath the front edge of his tunic; given that the dress specifications for lancers indicated that a round-fronted waistcoat was to be issued, this is further evidence that the official decrees relating to dress should never be taken too literally. (The Jean de Gerlache de Gomery Collection)

'. . . if such great objects may be obtained as the destruction of a whole hostile army, the State can afford to lose a few hundred horses from exhaustion,' the Emperor wrote, revealing in a couple of lines his whole philosophy towards losses in the cavalry. The incredible march to Ulm and Austerlitz in 1805 set the pace for the lightning offensives that were his hallmark, a method of warfare singularly unsuited to a non-mechanical army. That his troops fared so well on hopeless roads and empty stomachs is astonishing.

Though a daily ration of thirty grammes of bread, 250 of meat and a half-litre of wine was theoretically issued, officially sanctioned foraging was the main source of nourishment. In columns of four, or two where poor roads demanded, the cavalry would spearhead the advance of the army, leaving increasingly far behind them the wagon-

loads of grain intended for their use. As they rode deeper into generally hostile territory, so feeding both men and mounts became a greater problem until direct purchase and fair exchange gave way to theft and robbery. A trooper's salary, if and when he received it, was a bare 0.30F a day; and it is easy to see why pillaging prevailed when one compares this figure to the price of foodstuffs: a pound of sugar, 6F; a pound of rice or butter, 2.40F, and a pound of bread, 1.35F. These prices were recorded in Poland in 1806 at the very beginning of hostilities; is it any wonder that as costs rose so the number of incidents of indiscipline increased in proportion? Matters were worse still for the horses.

With the approach of the corps of the Grande Armée, the fleeing rural population of the invaded countryside would frequently burn their crops, leaving little or nothing in the way of cereals with which to nourish the cavalry mounts. It was common practice for regiments to arm special detachments of men with scythes, and despatch them as much as 50km from base to scour the land for fodder. The Russian campaign provides a ghastly example of the waste of horseflesh through lack of provision.

In June of 1812 80,000 cavalry mounts were taken on campaign; in no more than eight days 8,000 had died through lack of care and, in less than a month, Murat's 22,000 mounted men were reduced to 12,000. The troopers were remounted on frequently unsuitable captured horses, but the terrible toll only increased. With the coming of the snow during the retreat, 30,000 died within five days; by the time Murat's cavalry reached Smolensk, they numbered a pitiful 1,200 mounted men. Thereafter, the remaining horses served as food for the now starving men. Since there was only one veterinary surgeon for every 500 head of mounts, malnutrition over even a comparatively short length of time tended to be fatal.

It is with this in mind, therefore, that the war records should be considered, and due respect given a cavalry capable of achieving so much on so little.

Trooper of the 2nd Lancers, 1814. The dress specifications were a little vague as to the exact ornament of the skirts of the lancers' tunics and it would appear that the matter was left in the hands of the colonels of each regiment; some opting for pocket-less versions with piping about the back buttons, others preferring this example. In this case blank, the turnbacks of some lancer tunics were decorated with dark green eagle patches. Worthy of note is the fact that this individual has been issued with dragoon-style boots rather than the Hungarian pattern distinctive of lancers. (The Jean de Gerlache de Gomery Collection)

The 1st Regiment of Dragoons

Created in Germany in 1656 following a treaty concluded between General Montecuculli and the King of France. Named that same year as the Dragons Etrangers du Roi and renamed the Royal-Dragons in 1668, it finally became the 1er Régiment de Dragons in 1791. Transformed into the *1er Chevau-Légers Lanciers* in 1811. With the return of the Bourbons in 1814, the regiment was renamed the Régiment de Lanciers du Roi only to take up its previous title with the reinstatement of Napoleon in 1815. After the '100 Days' the regiment was entirely disbanded at Agen in 1815.

War record:

1805: Part of the cavalry reserve of the Grande Armée. Actions of Wertingen, Ulm and Austerlitz.
1806–1807: With the Grande Armée at Jena, Golymin, Heilsberg and Friedland (at which the regiment so distinguished itself that the Emperor

sent his personal felicitations to its Colonel, Dermoncourt, in the heat of the battle).
1807–1811: Attached to both the Army of Spain and that of Portugal. At Uclés, 1809, Maréchal des Logis Priant and Brigadier-Fourrier Gallet achieved the distinction of seizing an enemy standard apiece. At Chiclana, 1811, the now Sous-Lieutenant Priant captured no less than 400 prisoners with his single troop.
1812: With the Grande Armée at Smolensk and Borodino.
1813: Present at the battles of Dresden, Leipzig and Hanau.
1814: Reims and Paris.
1815: With the Arméee du Nord at Waterloo.

The 2nd Regiment of Dragoons
Created in 1635 and given the title of Enghien-Cavalerie. In 1646, the name was changed to the Condé-Cavalerie and remained so until 1776 when the regiment formally became dragoons as the Condé-Dragons. Entitled the 2eme Régiment de Dragons in 1791. Renamed the Régiment de Dragons du Roi (No. 1) in 1814 and, after a brief return to its 1791 title in 1815, was finally dissolved at Besançon on 4 December 1815.

War record:
1805: As part of the Cavalry Reserve of the Grande Armée fought at Wertingen, Albeck (where Brigadier Gigot was cited for having single-handedly made prisoner an enemy colonel from the midst of a battalion of the foe) and Austerlitz.
1806–1807: With the Cavalry Reserve at Jena (where the regiment captured an entire battalion, fifteen cannon and two flags), Eylau, Heilsberg and Friedland.
1808–1813: Attached successively to the armies of Spain and Portugal and engaged at Uclés, Medellin, Talavera-de-la-Reina, Chiclana and Vitoria.
1809: A contingent was present at the battle of Wagram as part of the Army of Germany.
1813: With the Grande Armée at Danzig, Leipzig and Hanau.
1814: Part of the 2nd Corps of the Grande Armée at the actions of Rambervilliers, Saint-Dizier and Brienne.
1815: Attached to the 3rd Corps of the Armée du Nord at Waterloo.

The 3rd Regiment of Dragoons
Levied for the Duke of Enghien in 1649 and named Enghien until 1686 when it was retitled Bourbon. Became a dragoon regiment in 1776 and entitled Bourbon-Dragons. Renamed the 3eme Régiment de Dragons in 1791 and so remained until its transformation into the *2eme Chevau-Légers Lanciers* in 1811.

War record:
1805: With the Grande Armée at Austerlitz.
1806–1807: Remained with the Grande Armée and was present at Jena, Prentzlow, Karnichen (where Fourrier Jeuffroy captured a standard), Eylau and Friedland (where Commandant Barbut seized two guns and a howitzer while Capitaine Delesalle and his company made off with an entire Russian battery).
1808–1811: Attached to the Army of Spain and engaged at Alba de Tormes.

A trumpeter of a centre company of the 12th Dragoons, 1804. Dressed for parade, this trumpeter wears the common surtout of reversed colours with lacing about the breast buttons, a tall plume and hide breeches. Note that trumpeters' helmets had a white rather than black horsehair mane. (The Jean de Gerlache de Gomery Collection)

A sapper of the 12th Dragoons in parade dress, 1809. On this figure we can discern that the body of his epaulettes have been covered with copper scales to protect the wearer's shoulders from sabre blows. The large axe and long apron were trademarks of the sapper's profession, distinctions dating back to when dragoons were purely mounted infantrymen. (The Jean de Gerlache de Gomery Collection)

The 4th Regiment of Dragoons

Levied in July of 1667 and named the Chartres-Cavalerie in 1684. Renamed as Clermont in 1724 and again, in 1771, as La Marche. Became a regiment of dragoons in 1776 with the title Conti-Dragoons. In 1791 the regiment was restyled as the 4eme Régiment de Dragons—the name to which it returned in 1815 with the return of the Eagle, after a short period under the Monarchy of 1814 with the title of the Régiment de Dragons de la Reine (No. 2). Disbanded in July of 1815 at Moulins.

War record:

1805–1807: Part of Klein's Division of the Grande Armée at the crossing of the Lech, Wertingen, Diernstein, Golymin, Deppen, Hoff, Eylau, Heilsberg and Friedland.

1807–1813: Attached to the 1st Corps of the Army of Spain and fought at Talavera-de-la-Reina, Ocaña, Albufera and Vitoria. Note however that in 1807 the 4th Provisional Regiment of Dragoons was with the Army of Portugal, engaged at Vimiero and surrendered at Cintra; this unit was dissolved in 1810.

1813: With the Grande Armée at Leipzig.

1814: Part of Treilhard's Division at the battles of Bar-sur-Aube, Sézanne and La Fère-Champenoise.

1815: Took part in the battle of Ligny.

The 5th Regiment of Dragoons

Created out of the division of the Dragons Etrangers du Roi into two and named, that year of 1668, Colonel-Général and Royal-Dragons. Renamed the 5eme Régiment de Dragons with the reorganization of 1791. Retitled the Régiment de Dragons du Dauphin after the abdication of Napoleon, it reclaimed its previous title for the '100 Days' campaign only to be disbanded later that year.

War record:

1805: With the Grande Armée at Wertingen and Austerlitz (at which Trooper Barbet captured a Russian adjutant-general).

1806–1807: Part of the Grande Armée for the actions of Nasielk, Eylau and Friedland.

1809–1813: Service in Spain where, 6 January 1809, Colonel de Sparre led twenty troopers, swimming, across a freezing affluent of the Douro to execute a spectacular charge ending with the seizure of two enemy cannon. The regiment fought at Almonacid, Ocaña and Vitoria.

1814: Engaged at the battles of Craonne, La Fère-Champenoise and Paris.

1815: With the Armée du Nord at Ligny and Waterloo.

The 6th Regiment of Dragoons

Formed in 1673, it was designated the La Reine-Dragons in 1675. Became the 6eme Régiment de Dragons in 1791. Renamed the Régiment de Dragons de Monsieur (No. 4) in 1814, but regained its numerical title with the return of Napoleon. The regiment was disbanded at Nimes in August of 1815.

War record:
1805: With the Grande Armée at Ulm, Ebensberg and Austerlitz.
1806: On the fields of Schleitz, Zehdenick and Prentzlov (at which both Lieutenant Jobert and Trooper Fabre captured enemy standards). December 23rd, on the battlefield of Biezun, Trooper Plet seized yet another standard while Maréchal des Logis Lecuyer, accompanied by four troopers, carried away no less than two guns, a howitzer and two ammunition caissons.
1807: Part of the Grande Armée at the actions of Bergfried, Hoff (where Colonel Lebaron lost his life), Eylau and Friedland.
1809–1813: Attached to the Army of Spain and engaged at Alba-de-Tormes, Ciudad-Rodrigo, Fuentes d'Onoro, Torres Vedras, Los Arapilos (Salamanca) and Vitoria.
1813: Fought with the Grande Armée at Leipzig.
1814: Present on the fields of Brienne, La Rothière, Mormant and Saint-Dizier.
1815: Attached to the Army of the Moselle and engaged at Ligny and Rocquencourt.

The 7th Regiment of Dragoons
Raised by the Marquis of Sauvebœuf at Tournai in 1673. Named the Dauphin-Dragons in 1675. Became the 7eme Régiment de Dragons in 1791 but retitled the Régiment de Dragons d'Angoulême (No. 5) under the First Restoration in 1814. Returned to their 1791 title in 1815 under the renewed Empire, but was dissolved on 16 July 1815.

War record:
1805–1809: Attached to the Army of Italy and engaged at Caldiero, the crossing of the Tagliamento and throughout the Calabrian campaign. In April 1809, at the crossing of the Piave, Lieutenant Blassel successfully led an undermanned foot detachment to the rescue of General Baraguey d'Hilliers and his staff, momentarily isolated and in imminent danger of capture. This same year, at the battle of Wagram, Chef d'Escadron Deberme, acting regimental commander in lieu of Colonel de Seron who lay wounded, executed a superb charge against two enemy cavalry regiments and siezed some 300 prisoners.
1812: With the Grande Armée at Borodino.
1813: Fought with the Grande Armée at Dresden.
1814: Present at the battle of La Fère-Champenoise.
1815: Engaged on the field of Waterloo.

Drummer of an élite company of foot dragoons. Like the grenadiers of infantry, élite foot dragoons boasted tall black bearskins and red epaulettes. With the turning of mount-less dragoons into infantry units, so trumpeters were replaced by drummers equipped with instruments of the same pattern as the infantry. Their equipment remained the same except for the wearing of gaiters and shoes instead of riding boots, and the carrying of an infantry-style pack.

The 8th Regiment of Dragoons

Created 1 March 1674 by the Marquis d'Heudicourt and named Toulouse in 1693. Renamed Penthièvre in 1737. Finally titled as Penthièvre-Dragons in 1776. Became the 8eme Régiment de Dragons in 1791 and so remained until 1811 when the regiment was restyled as the *3eme Chevau-Légers Lanciers*. In 1814 this last became the Régiment de Lanciers du Dauphin but resumed its former title for the Belgian campaign of 1815. The regiment was disbanded in 1815.

A foot dragoon, c.1806, equipped essentially in the same manner as if he were mounted. The sabre was retained and slung on the hook of the swordbelt. Here wrapped about his body in the cavalrymen's fashion, the greatcoat could more easily be strapped atop the pack as the infantry were wont to do.

War record:

1805–1806: Part of the Grande Armée at Wertingen, Ulm, Lambach, Austerlitz, Jena, Zehdenik, Prentzlov and Nasielk (where Colonel Beckler was struck dead).

1807: With the Grande Armée at Eylau, Heilsberg and Friedland.

1808–1811: Service in Spain. Present at Burgos, Tudela, Monterey, Braga, Oporto, Valladolid, Guarda, Santarem and Sabugal.

1812: Attached to the Grande Armée and on the fields of Polotsk (where Colonel Lebrun lost his life) and Berezina.

1813: Still with the Grande Armée at the battles of Bautzen, Reichenbach, Dresden, Leipzig and Hanau.

1815: Took part in the Belgian campaign and fought at both Ligny and Waterloo.

The 9th Regiment of Dragoons

Raised in the Franche-Comté by the Marquis of Listenois in 1673. Originally given the title of Lorraine in 1773. Became the 9eme Régiment de Dragons in 1791 and consequently retitled the *4eme Régiment de Chevau-Légers Lanciers* in 1811. With the return of the monarchy the regiment was renamed the Régiment de Lanciers de Monsieur; after reviving its former title for the 1815 campaign, the regiment was dissolved later the same year.

War record:

1805–1807: With the Grande Armée at the following actions: Wertingen (where Colonel Maupetit died leading a charge), Austerlitz (where Lieutenant-Colonel Delort received two lance wounds and the Adjutant-Major, Strolz, thirteen), Jena, Zehdenick, Jonkovo, Hoff, Eylau, Friedland, Willemsdorf and Königsberg.

1808–1810: Service in the Peninsula and presence at Burgos, Talavera-de-la-Reina, Ocaña, Cadiz and Busaco.

1812: Fought with the Grande Armée at Borodino, Mojaïsk, and Winkovo.

1813: On the fields of Leipzig and Hanau.

1814: Engaged in the battles of Champaubert and Vauchamps.

1815: Present at Waterloo.

1 Brigadier of the élite company of the 22nd Dragoons, 1810
2 Brigadier of the 12th Dragoons in 'petite tenue'
3 Trooper of the 4th Dragoons in campaign dress

ANGUS McBRIDE

A

1 Musician of the 16th Dragoons in parade dress, 1810
2 Maréchal des Logis Chef of the 12th Dragoons, 1813
3 Trumpeter of a centre company of the 1st Dragoons in campaign dress, 1810

B

ANGUS McBRIDE

1 Trumpet-Major of the 13th Dragoons in campaign dress, 1808–13
2 Chef de Sapeurs of the 19th Dragoons, c. 1810
3 Trumpeter of the élite company of the 25th Dragoons in parade dress, 1813

ANGUS McBRIDE

C

1 Sous-Lieutenant of the 9th Dragoons in walking-out dress, 1805
2 Superior officer of the 20th Dragoons, campaign dress, 1806
3 Colonel of the 12th Dragoons in campaign dress, 1814

D

ANGUS McBRIDE

1 Trooper of the élite company of the 2nd Lancers in parade dress, 1811–14
2 Maréchal-Ferrant in stable dress, 1811–14
3 Trooper carabinier of the 5th Lancers, early 1812

ANGUS McBRIDE

E

1 NCO Porte-Etendard of the 3rd Lancers in campaign dress, 1812
2 Brigadier of the 3rd Lancers, 1811–14
3 Trumpeter of the élite company of the 1st Lancers in campaign dress, 1813

F

ANGUS McBRIDE

1 Trumpeter, élite company, 1st Lancers, parade dress, 1815
2 Trumpeter, centre company, 3rd Lancers, campaign dress, 1812
3 Trumpeter, élite company, 5th Lancers, campaign dress, 1812

1 Major of the 6th Lancers in parade dress, 1811–14
2 Sous-Lieutenant of the 5th Lancers in campaign dress, 1813
3 Sous-Lieutenant of the 2nd Lancers in campaign dress, 1811–14

ANGUS McBRIDE

The 10th Regiment of Dragoons

Created in 1674 and named Mestre-de-Camp-Général in 1685. Renamed the 10eme Régiment de Dragons in 1791, it was subsequently transformed into the *5eme Régiment de Chevau-Légers Lanciers* in 1811. Newly entitled the Régiment de Lanciers d'Angoulême in 1814, it reverted to its numerical title for the '100 Days' and was finally dissolved after the campaign.

War record:

1803–1804: Stationed at the Camp de Boulogne for the proposed invasion of Great Britain.

1805: With the Grande Armée at Ulm and Austerlitz.

1806–1807: Took part in the battles of Eylau and Friedland attached to the Grande Armée.

1809–1811: Peninsula service: fought at Alba-de-Tormes, Ciudad Rodrigo and Fuentes d'Onoro (where Lieutenant Vesuty, leading the regiment's élite company, repulsed some 400 British hussars, taking many prisoners, and severely mauled a battalion of British infantry).

1812: Rejoined the Grande Armée for the battles of Borodino and Winkovo.

1813: Remained with the Grande Armée and fought at Wachau and Hanau.

1814: Engaged in the battle of Montmirail.

1815: On the fields of both Ligny and Waterloo.

The 11th Regiment of Dragoons

Formed by Royal commission at Tournai in 1674. In 1788 the regiment was presented to the Duke of Angoulême and received his name. In 1791 the regiment was retitled as the 11eme Régiment de Dragons. Following the restoration of the House of Bourbon, it was renamed the Régiment de Dragons de Berry (No. 6). After taking part in the 1815 campaign under its numerical title, the regiment was dissolved.

War record:

1805: Part of the Grande Armée at the battles of Landsberg, Ulm, Amstetten, Hollabrünn, Rausnitz and Austerlitz (where Colonel Bourdon was fatally wounded).

1806–1808: Remained with the Grande Armée and was present at Zehdenick, Prentzlov, Eylau and Friedland.

Left: **an officer of an élite company wears the popular officers' overcoat; knee-length and double-breasted, it was entirely middle-green and decorated with silver buttons and the same epaulettes as would be worn on the tunic.**
Right: **an officer of a centre company in a cape of middle-green embellished with silver lace. While the overcoat was suitable for everyday wear, the cape was eminently more practical when mounted.**

1809–1813: Took part in the following actions in the Peninsula: Alba-de-Tormes, Busaco, Redinha, Fuentes d'Onoro, Ciudad Rodrigo, Los Arapilos (Salamanca) and Vitoria.

1813: Attached to the 5th Corps of Cavalry of the Grande Armée at Leipzig and Hanau.

1814: Present at the battles of Saint-Dizier, Brienne, La Rothière and Montmirail.

1815: Stationed in Strasbourg, attached to the 6th Corps of Cavalry.

The 12th Regiment of Dragoons

Formed at Maestricht in 1675 in conjunction with some companies from Liège. Presented to the Count of Artois in 1774 and given his name. Became the 12eme Régiment de Dragons in 1791 but was renamed in 1814 the Régiment de Dragons d'Orléans (No. 7) with the restoration of Louis XVIII to the throne. Allotted the 1791 title once again in 1815 with the re-establishment of the Empire, the regiment was finally disbanded at Tours later that same year.

War record:

1805: Attached to the 5th Corps of the Reserve Cavalry and saw action at Wertingen, Ulm and Austerlitz.

1806: Part of the 3rd Division of Dragoons of the Grande Armée at Jena, Prentzlov and Nasielk.

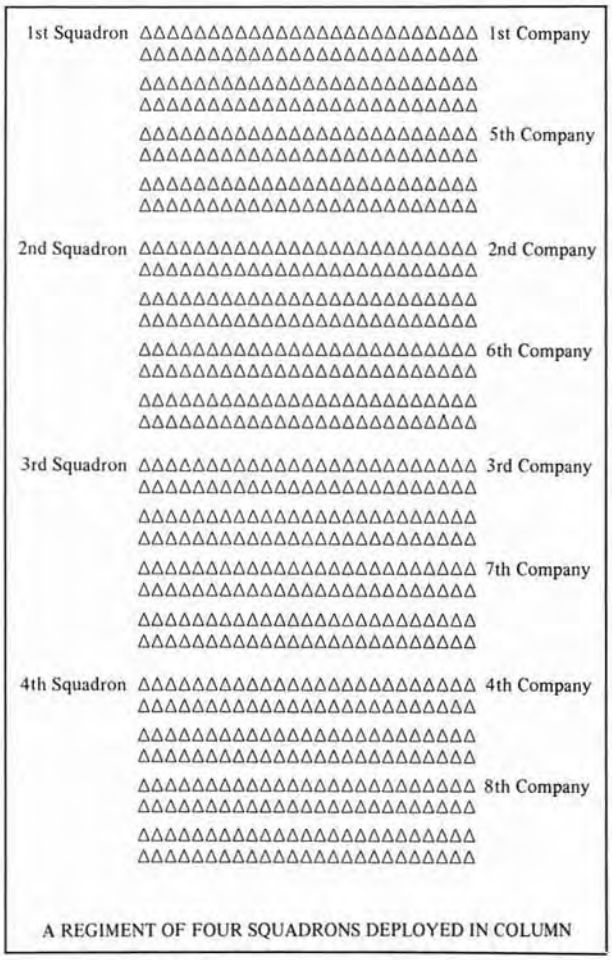
1807: Present at Eylau, Heilsberg and Friedland.

1808–1813: Service in the Peninsula and presence at Burgos, Madrid, Medellin, Talavera, Almonacid, Ocaña, the Andalusian expedition, Alca-la-Real, Grenada, Venta-del-Baul, Huescar and Vitoria.

1813: With the Grande Armée at Danzig.

1814: Fought at the battle for Paris.

1815: Served with the Armée du Nord at Ligny and Namur.



A regiment deployed in column, an ideal formation where impact was essential or when the field of battle was obstructed. Note the arrangement of the companies within each squadron. Each squadron comprised two companies of two troops who rode on a front of twenty-five with a depth of two.

The 13th Regiment of Dragoons

Formed in the Languedoc in 1676 and named the Condé-Dragons in 1724. Renamed the Comte-de-Province in 1774, then yet again as the Monsieur the same year. Retitled the 13eme Régiment de Dragons in 1791. Changed to the 8eme Régiment de Dragons (de Condé) in 1814, but resumed its former title for the 1815 campaign. The regiment was finally dissolved the 6th of December 1815.

War record:

1805–1806: Attached to the Grande Armée and engaged at the crossing of the Rhine at Kehl, the crossing of the Danube at Elchingen, Hollabrünn, Austerlitz, Nasielk and Pultusk.

1809–1812: Saw action in the Peninsula at Corunna, Oporto, the crossing of the Tagus at Arzobispo and the battle of Las Rosas.

1813: With the Grande Armée at Leipzig.

1814: Fought at Mormant and Saint-Dizier.

1815: On the battlefields of Wavre and Rocquencourt.

The 14th Regiment of Dragoons

Created 3 March 1672 by the Marquis of Seyssac. Named Chartres in 1758 and became a dragoon regiment in 1776 under the title of the Chartres-Dragons. Became the 14eme Régiment de Dragons in 1791, but were renamed the 9eme Régiment de Dragons under the Restoration. Having briefly returned to its 1791 title in 1815 under the Empire, the regiment was disbanded in December of the same year.

War record:

1805: With the Grande Armée at Wertingen and Austerlitz.

A REGIMENT OF FOUR SQUADRONS DEPLOYED IN ECHELON

This echelon formation was frequently adopted where the terrain permitted; it enabled cavalry to attack in devastating waves, the front squadrons drawing enemy fire in precisely the wrong direction from the imminent attack.

1806–1807: Still linked to the Grande Armée, saw action at Jena, Golymin, Watersdorf, Eylau, Heilsberg and Friedland.
1808–1811: Service in the Peninsula, engaged at Madrid, Medellin, Talavera, Ocaña, the siege of Cadiz, Alcanizas, La Gebora, Sabugal and Albufera.
1813: With the Grande Armée at the battles of Leipzig, Dennewitz and Danzig.
1814: Took part at the following actions during the French campaign: Montereau, Bar-sur-Aube and Arcis-sur-Aube.
1815: Fought at Charleroi, Ligny and Rocquencourt.

The 15th Regiment of Dragoons

Originally created as of 20 December 1688 by the Duke of Noailles, the regiment was formally listed as a dragoon unit in 1776. In 1791 the regiment was named the 15eme Régiment de Dragons. The return of the Bourbons in 1814 necessitated its renaming as the 10eme Régiment de Dragons. Assuming its old number for the 1815 campaign ensured the regiment's dissolution on 16 November 1815 at La Rochelle.

War record:
1805–1807: Attached to the Grande Armée at the battles of Ulm, Nordlingen, Austerlitz, Lübeck, Pultusk and Ostrolenka.
1808–1813: With both the armies of Spain and Portugal during the Peninsula campaign, attached to the reserve cavalry, and present at Ciudad Rodrigo, Busaco, Pombal, Redinha, Fuentes d'Onoro and Vitoria.
1813: Part of the 5th Corps of Cavalry on the fields of Leipzig and Hanau.
1814: Remained with the 5th Corps for the battles of Brienne, La Rothière, Nogent-sur-Seine and Mormant.
1815: Attached to the 5th Division of the Reserve Cavalry at Ligny and Rocquencourt.

The 16th Regiment of Dragoons

Formed of free corps and re-organized regiments' companies for the Duke of Orléans and named after him. Renamed the 16eme Régiment de Dragons in 1791 and, yet again in 1814, as the 11eme Régiment de Dragons. Returned briefly to its previous number on Napoleon's return and was consequently disbanded later the same year.

War record:
1805: With the Grande Armée at Austerlitz.
1806–1807: Remained with the Grande Armée and fought at Jena, Prentzlov, Bergfried, Eylau and Friedland.
1808–1813: Saw service in the Peninsula and engaged at Arzobispo, Talavera, Ocaña, Alca-Real, Malaga, Moralez and Vitoria. At Talavera, Lieutenant d'Ussel and his troop captured three standards.
1814: Saw action at Mormant, Valjouan, Bar-sur-Aube and Arcis-sur-Aube.
1815: Took part in the battle of Ligny.

The 17th Regiment of Dragoons

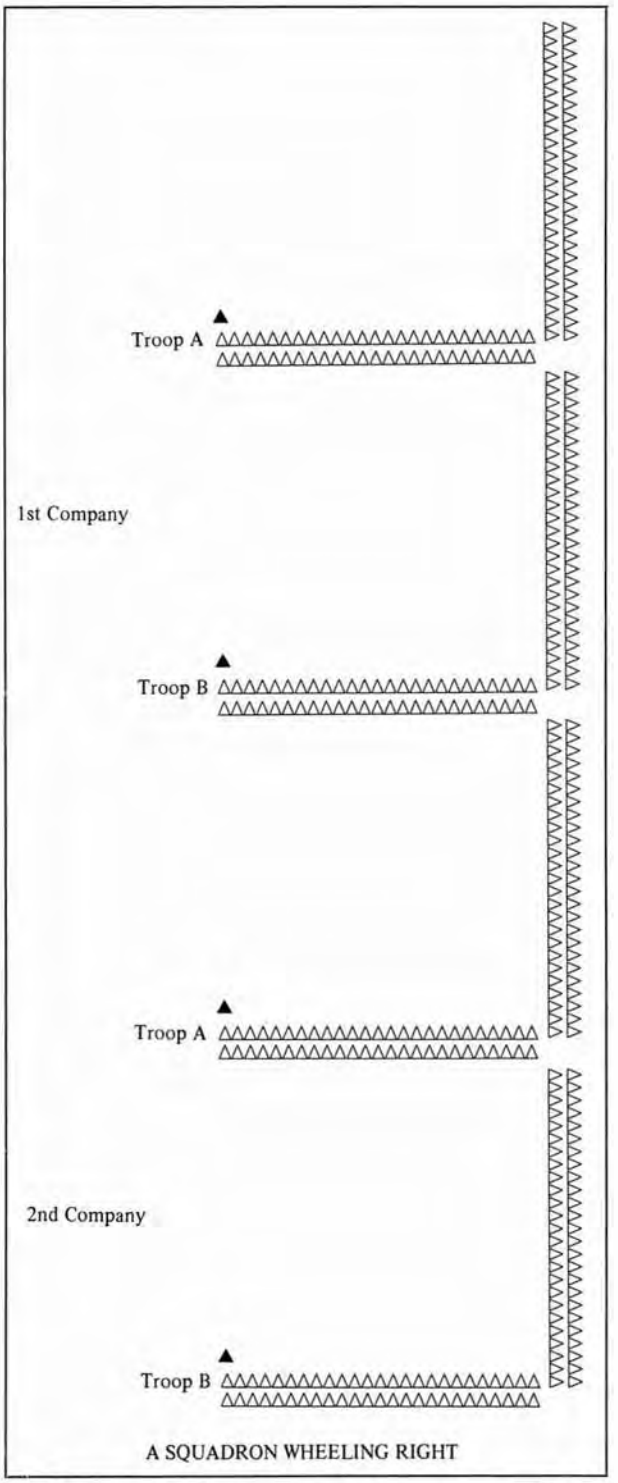
Created by the Comte de Saxe in 1743, with German, Polish and Rumanian volunteers, as a mixed regiment comprising three brigades of

lancers and three of dragoons. Originally named the Volontaires de Saxe, the regiment was transformed into an entirely dragoon unit in 1762 and dubbed the Schönberg-Dragons. Retitled the 17eme Régiment de Dragons in 1791, it was again renumbered in 1814 as the 12eme Régiment de Dragons and yet again, in 1815, as the 18eme Régiment. The regiment was finally disbanded in 1815.

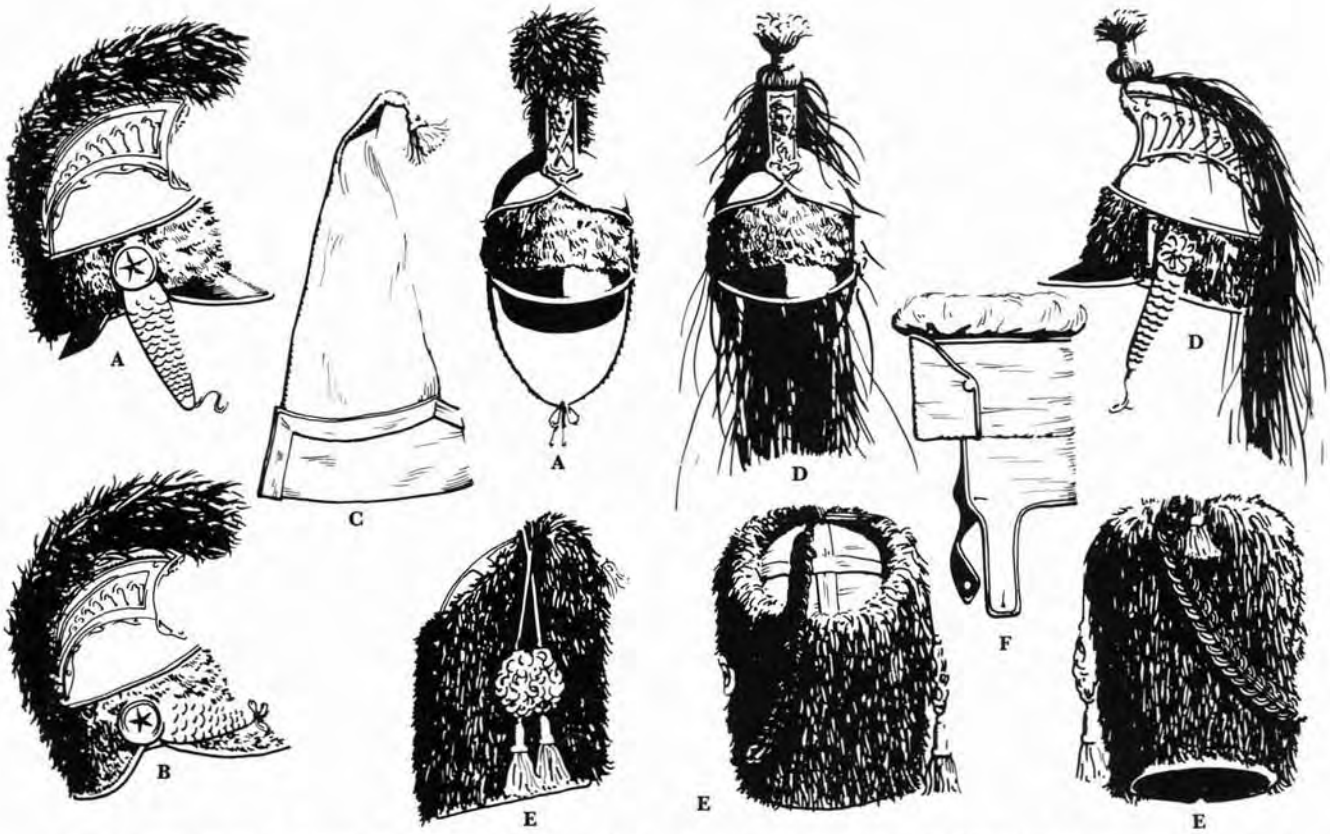
War record:
1805: Fought with the Grande Armée at Albeck and Austerlitz.
1806–1807: Remained with the Grande Armée and was present at the actions of Eylau, Mansfeld, Königsberg, Spanden and Friedland.
1808–1813: With the Army of Spain: Madrid, Benavente, Corunna, Braga, Amarante and Arzobispo; in Estramadura in 1810 and subsequently on the fields of Albufera, Villagarcia, Valencia, Torre and Vitoria.
1813: Part of the 10th Corps of the Grande Armée during the defence of Magdeburg.
1814: Part of the 6th Corps of Cavalry at Fontvannes, Troyes, Saint-Parre (where Colonel Lepic captured an enemy standard), Arcis-sur-Aube and Paris.
1815: Attached to the 6th Division of Reserve Cavalry during the Belgian campaign and fought at Ligny and Namur.

The 18th Regiment of Dragoons
Formed at Metz in 1744 with the sixteenth companies of the fifteen regiments of dragoons then existing, and named Le Roi. Renamed the 18eme Régiment de Dragons in 1791. In 1814 the regiment was renumbered as the 13eme Régiment de Dragons only to finally return, in 1815, to the title of 18eme. Disbanded shortly thereafter at Lunel.

War record:
1805: Part of the 4th Division of Dragoons of the Reserve Cavalry of the Grande Armée and present at Elchingen and Austerlitz.
1806–1807: Remained attached to the Reserve Cavalry and took part at Nordhausen, Sandow, Lübeck, Graudenz, Mohrüngen, Spandau and Friedland.



Squadrons marched at around 6-7 km an hour with the companies either close behind one another or, as in this case, at frontal length distance. This enabled the companies to wheel right or left into an assault line, ready within seconds to be launched into action. As illustrated, the troops would pivot on the end man, performing an arc to dress the line.



A) A lancer trooper's helmet in profile and full-on. This headdress was no more than a dragoon's helmet embellished with rear peak and horsehair crest.

B) The slightly modified version issued to NCO's; it differed only in its more elegant line. Both helmets were entirely copper with a brown fur turban.

C) The middle-green fatigue cap issued to dragoons and lancers prior to the adoption of the Pokalem model (F) in 1812. The lace was white, as was the tassel in most cases, and the piping was of the regimental colour. The regimental number was frequently added to the front.

D) The dragoon helmet in profile and full-on. The horsehair mane became increasingly thin as the years wore on, but the shape of the helmet altered but little. The head-dress was entirely copper with a brown turban of fur. Note the plume holder just in front of the left side chinscale rosace.

E) The bearskin of élite troopers. The rear patch is red with a white cross of lace upon it; the cords and tassels are also red, the former passing on the left side beneath a tricolour cockade. This head-gear was often fitted with chinscales identical to the helmet.

F) The Pokalem model fatigue cap. The ear-flaps folded up and were buttoned to a single cloth-covered button on each side when not in use.

1808–1813: With the 4th Division of Dragoons of the Army of Spain at Somo-Sierra, Madrid, Corunna, the invasion of Portugal, Oporto, Arzobispo and Las Rosas.

1813: Attached to the Grande Armée and fought at Dresden, Leipzig and Hanau.

1814: Engaged at Saint-Dizier, Brienne and La Rothière.

The 19th Regiment of Dragoons

Created by the Decree of 27 February 1793 of the Volontaires d'Angers and named the 19eme Régiment de Dragons. Renumbered as the 14eme Régiment in 1814 only to be retitled the 19eme shortly before its dissolution at Moulins in September of 1815.

War record:

1805: Part of the 4th Division of Dragoons of the Grande Armée and engaged at Elchingen and Austerlitz.

1806–1807: Remained with the Grande Armée for the actions of Jena, Lübeck, Mohrüngen and Friedland.

1808–1813: Attached to the 4th Division of Dragoons with both the armies of Spain and Portugal; fought at Corunna, Morentase, Braga, Oporto, Arzobispo, Las Rosas, Medina Cœli and Vitoria.

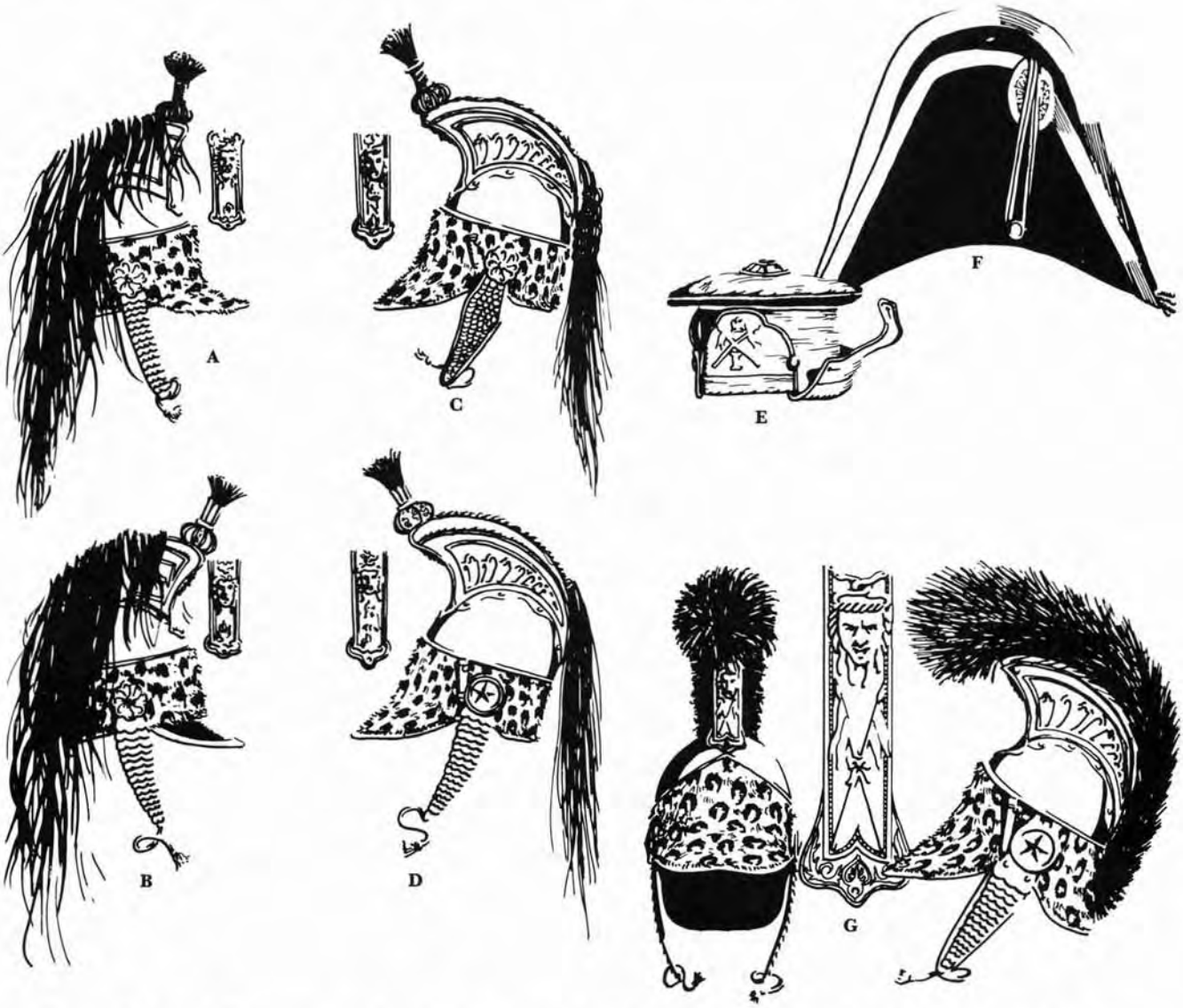
1813–1814: With the 5th Corps of Cavalry of the Grande Armée at Dresden (where Captain Ponsonnet with only ten dragoons broke through an infantry square and made off with no less than three

cannon), Flemingen, Wachau, Leipzig, Danzig, Saint-Dizier, Brienne, La Rothière, Mormant, Les Trois-Maisons and the second action at Saint-Dizier. Having played a vital role in covering the retreat of the Grande Armée, Commandant Cosnard and Lieutenant Mollard of the 19eme received a citation and the Cross of the Legion of Honour respectively.

1815: Attached to the Armée du Rhin and engaged at the minor actions of Ober-Hausbergen and Mittel-Hausbergen.

The 20th Regiment of Dragoons

Created in July of 1793 of the Régiment de Dragons de Hainault et Jemappes and named the 20eme Régiment de Dragons. Renumbered the 15eme



Figures A through D demonstrate the changing shape of dragoon officers' head-gear through the years: A) 1804–07; B) 1806–10; C) 1808–12 and D) 1810–14. The helmets were of copper with leopard skin turbans.

E) The officers' model of the Pokalem fatigue cap. Prior to its introduction in 1812, a pattern identical to that of the troops was worn, but laced in silver rather than in white. This particular one is that of an officer of lancers, as evinced by the crossed-lance patch on the front, but a dragoon's would differ only in the use of a silver grenade patch in its stead. It is middle-green and laced and piped in the regimental colour.

F) An officer's bicorn, 1810. Earlier models of this head-dress were less tall and the folded-up brim was generally of equal length all the way round. But, as civilian couture demanded, the bicorns of later years tend to be increasingly high, stiff and with brims of unequal width.

G) A lancer officer's helmet. As that of dragoons, officers of lancers had more elegant helmets with turbans of leopard skin. The front plate of the copper crest differed in that it had the familiar crossed-lance device embellished upon it.

Régiment de Dragons in 1814. With the return of Napoleon, the regiment was retitled the 20eme. Dissolved in July of 1815.

War record:
1805: With the 1st Division of Dragoons of the Grande Armée at Wertingen, Memmingen, Neresheim (where Brigadier Blondel seized an enemy standard for which he was subsequently presented with the Cross of the Legion of Honour), Ulm and Austerlitz.
1806–1807: Remained with the Grande Armée and engaged at Jena, Pultusk, Eylau, Heilsberg and Friedland.
1808–1812: Took part in the following actions in Spain: Andujar, Tudela, Ucles, Ciudad-Real, Almonacid, Ocaña, Los Arapilos (Salamanca), Pampeluna and Tamames.
1813–1814: Part of the 5th Corps of Cavalry of the Grande Armée and fought at Leipzig, Dresden and Hanau.
1814: On the fields of Saint-Dizier, Brienne, La Rothière, Mormant, Montereau and Troyes during the campaign of France.
1815: Attached to the 2nd Corps of Cavalry of the Armée du Nord and engaged at Ligny, Waterloo and Rocquencourt.

The 21st Regiment of Dragoons
Originally created in April of 1796 with the Cavalerie de Légion de la Police and named the 21eme Régiment de Dragons. Disbanded in April of 1797. Recreated in 1801 from the Piedmontese 1st Regiment of Dragoons (Piedmont having been annexed to France that year) and again numbered the 21eme Régiment de Dragons. The regiment was finally disbanded in August of 1814.

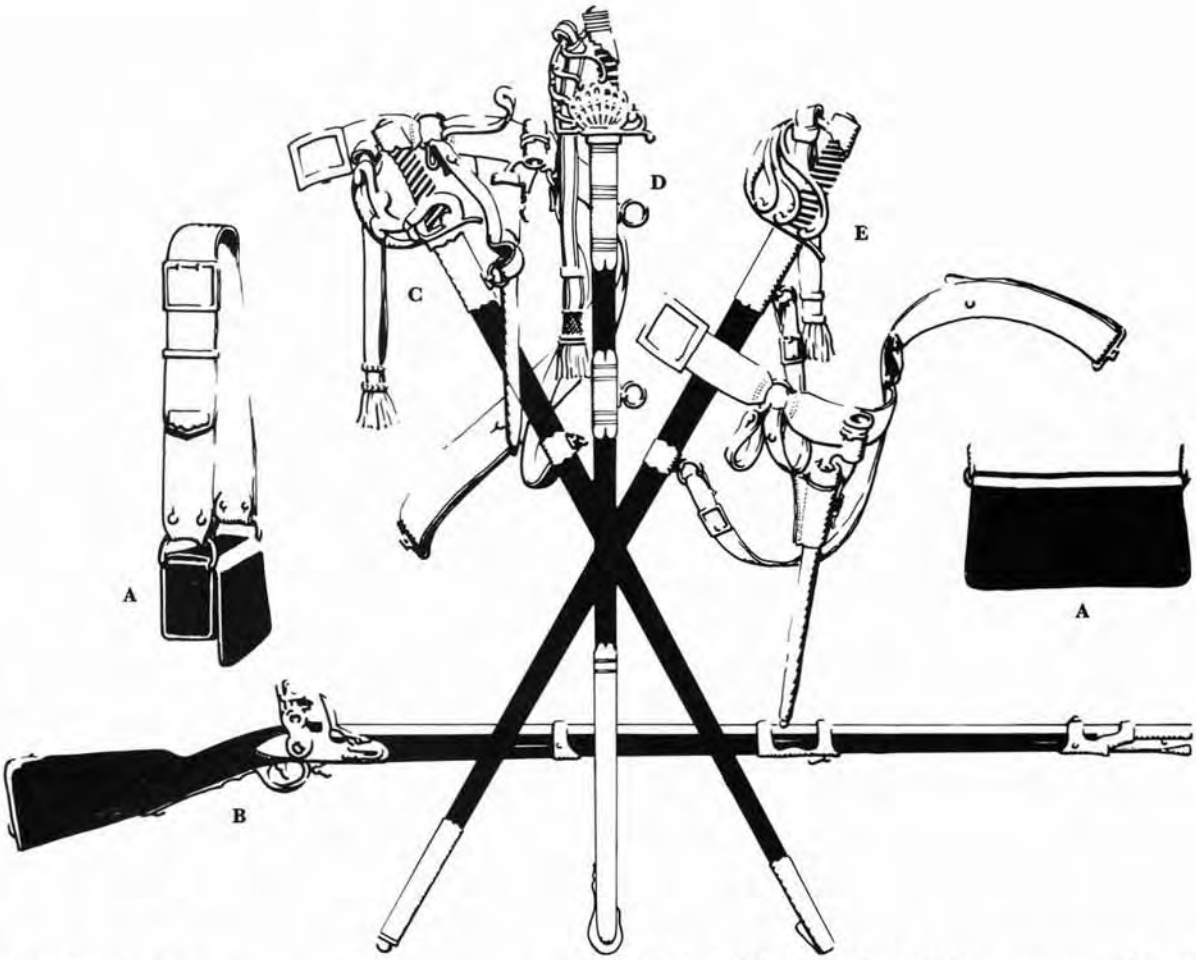
War record:
1805: With the Grande Armée at Ulm and Austerlitz.
1806–1807: Remained with the Grande Armée and present at Prentzlow, Eylau and Königsberg.
1808–1812: Engaged at Almonacid in the Peninsula Campaign as well as the following small actions: Massaruleque, Martos, Fuengirola, Estepona and Osuna.
1813: With the Grande Armée at Jüterbock and Leipzig. Attached to the Army of Spain and fought at Miranda and Vitoria.
1814: With the Grande Armée at Fontvannes, Troyes and Montmirail.

The 22nd Regiment of Dragoons
Raised in Piedmont in 1635 and named Orléans. In 1647, Anne of Austria purchased the regiment for her son the Duke of Anjou and renamed it the Régiment d'Anjou. Resumed its title of the Régiment d'Orléans in 1660 only to be disbanded the following year. The regiment was eventually recreated in 1665. Renamed the 13eme Régiment de Cavalerie in 1791 and yet again, in 1803, as the 22eme Régiment de Dragons. The unit was finally disbanded in May 1814.

War record:
1805: With the Grande Armée at both Ulm and Austerlitz.
1806–1807: Remained with the Grande Armée for the actions of Jena, Eylau, Ostrolenka and Friedland.
1808–1813: Took part in the following actions in the Peninsula: Baylen (where Lieutenant Ancelin captured an enemy standard), Mora, Braga, Barcellos, Oporto, Valverde, Alicante, Elche, Almanza and Las Rosas.
1813: Engaged at Strehla, Naumburg, Flemingen and Leipzig during the Saxon Campaign.
1814: The 3rd and 4th squadrons fought at Saint-Dizier during the Campaign of France.

The 23rd Regiment of Dragoons
Raised in Turin by the Duke of Savoy in 1670 as the Royal-Piémont. It was ceded to France the following year and renamed the Prince-de-Piémont. In 1690 it returned to its previous title. Retitled the 14eme Régiment de Cavalerie in 1791, and again, in 1803, as the 23eme Régiment de Dragons. The regiment was dissolved in 1814.

War record:
1804–1806: Attached to the Army of Italy and engaged at Verona and the crossing of the Tagliamento.
1806: Briefly transferred to the Army of Naples.
1809: Again with the Army of Italy, at Sacile, Piave, San-Daniel and Wagram.
1812: With the Grande Armée at Borodino (La



Dragoons' equipment.

A) Troopers' pattern cartridge-pouch. Suspended on a blancoed crossbelt passed over the left shoulder, the black leather cartridge-pouch contained the powder-and-ball cartridges for the musketoon. The model illustrated, the 1801 pattern, was in use throughout the wars.

B) The An IX pattern musketoon. This replaced the infantry muskets issued to dragoons under the Consulate for lack of supply, and was later in turn replaced by the An XI model which differed but little. Dragoons were also issued pistols; the brass-mounted 1763 pattern and the steel-furnished Republican model both saw continuous use throughout the Empire period.

C) The An IV model sabre and 1801 pattern swordbelt. The sabre has iron fittings though a similar type of sabre with copper guard is also in use until the eventual introduction of the An IX, XI or XII patterns. Note the strap attached to the swordbelt's first copper ring designed to hold the bayonet socket in place. The knot on the guard of the sabre was white.

D) The officers' sabre was fitted in gilt and came in two slightly different types, the one entirely straight and the other lightly curved. This sabre was only worn on service and was replaced by a straight épée for everyday wear.

E) The copper guard distinguishes this An XII model troopers' sabre from its predecessor. The copper-fitted swordbelt is the 1812 pattern.

Moskowa), Mojaïsk and Berezina.

1813: Remained attached to the Grande Armée and engaged at Dresden (where Captain Gegout captured two cannon and General Szecsen; Adjutant Agoustène seized an enemy standard; and Maréchal des Logis Brouvères captured a Russian general) and Leipzig.

1814: Fought at Vertus and Paris during the Campaign of France.

The 24th Regiment of Dragoons

Raised in 1761 and named the Royal-Lorraine. Renamed the 16eme Regiment de Cavalerie in 1791 and again, in 1792, as the 15eme Régiment de Cavalerie (following the defection of the 15th Regiment, ex-Royal-Allemand). Became the 24eme Régiment de Dragons in 1803. Disbanded in June 1814.

War record:

1805: With the Army of Italy at Tagliamento and Caldiero.

1806: Attached to the Army of Naples.

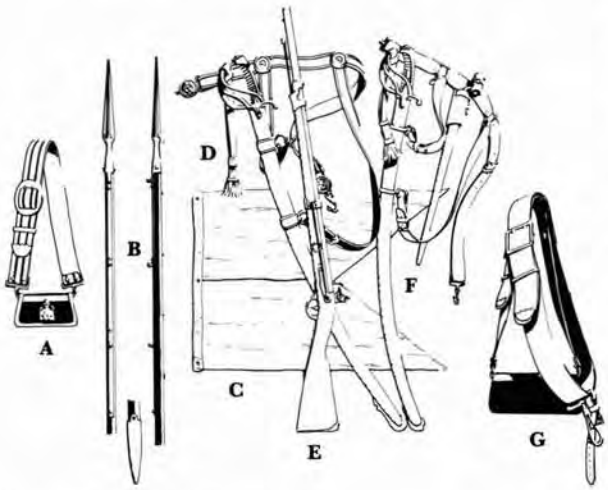
1808–1813: Fought in the following actions in the

Peninsula: Rosas, Cardedeu, Molins-del-Rey, Wals, San-Columa, Tarragona, Villa-Real, Sagonte (where Captain Devons seized a Spanish standard), Castalla and the Ordal Pass.
1813: With the Grande Armée at Jüterbock.
1814: An unspecified detachment took part in the Campaign of France.

The 25th Regiment of Dragoons

Created in 1665 and named the Bourgogne in 1685, after the Duke of Bourgogne. Renamed Bretagne in 1711 after the Duke of Bourgogne's son. In 1751, resumed its previous title. Retitled Royal-Bourgogne in 1788. Became the 17eme Régiment de Cavalerie in 1791 but renumbered the 16eme the following year. Retitled the 25eme Régiment de Dragons in 1803 and finally disbanded in 1814.

War record:
1805: With the Grande Armée at Elchingen and Austerlitz.
1806–1807: Remained with the Grande Armée throughout the Prussian campaign and engaged at Halberstadt and Ostrolenka.
1808–1813: Took part in the following actions in Spain: Baylen, Lugo, Alba-de-Tormes. Subsequently attached to the Army of Portugal and engaged at Almeida, Torres-Vedras, Fuentes d'Onoro, Los Arapilos (Salamanca) and Vitoria.
1813: With the Grande Armée at Dresden and Leipzig (where Colonel Montigny was mortally wounded).
1814: Fought at Saint-Dizier, Brienne, La Rothière, Mormant, La Fère-Champenoise and Paris during the Campaign of France.



Lancers' equipment.
A) Officers' pattern cartridge-pouch. This is one of many varieties employed by lancer officers, others include those of black leather, edged in gold lace and those, like this one, of scarlet but with five stripes of gold lace down the body instead of three. The gold Imperial eagle device on the pouch flap was often replaced by a crowned N.
B) The tip of the lance. The lance was a total length of 2.75m, ending in the iron foot illustrated. Note the 'buttons' to which the pennant (C) attached.
D) The officers' pattern sabre. It differs very little from the troopers' model but has a gilt guard. The swordbelt is one of many adopted by the officers and is scarlet edged in gold lace with gilt fittings.
E) The An IX pattern musketoon. This was at first only issued to lanciers-carabiniers but towards the end of 1811, all lancers already equipped with lances received one complete with crossbelt and sling. It is likely that troopers only retained either the lance or the musketoon, discarding the other as a useless burden.
F) The An IX model light cavalry sabre, as used by troopers. The swordbelt is narrower than that issued to dragoons and has a serpent-S buckle; but patterns with solid or frame buckles were not uncommon, and where the solid square buckle was used, it was frequently decorated with either a crowned N or an Imperial eagle.
G) The troopers' cartridge-pouch and the musketoon sling and crossbelt.

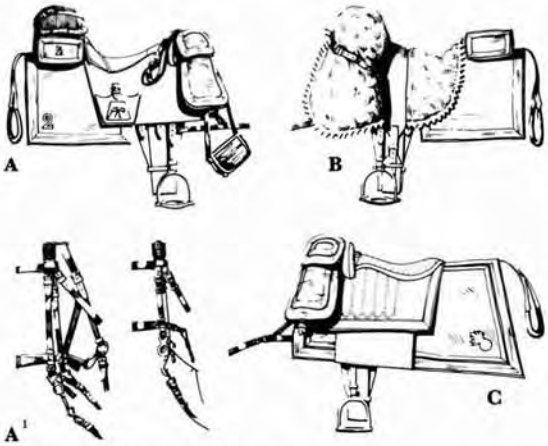
The 26th Regiment of Dragoons

Created in and named after the province of Roussillon in 1673. Renamed Berry in 1690 after the Duke of Berry. Became the 18eme Régiment de Cavalerie in 1791 but renumbered the 17eme the following year. Renamed the 26eme Régiment de Dragons in 1803 and disbanded at Nantes in 1814.

War record:
1805: Attached to the Reserve Cavalry of the Grande Armée and engaged at Wertingen, Albeck, Neresheim and Austerlitz.
1806–1807: Fought at Jena, Waltersdorf, Hoff, Eylau, Heilsberg and Friedland.
1808–1813: Engaged in the following actions in the Peninsula: Tudela, Uclés, Medellin, Talavera-de-la-Reina, Ocaña, Olivenza, Badajoz, Gebora, Albuquerque, Campo-Major, Puente-del-Mæstro and Vitoria.
1814: Part of the 6th Corps of Cavalry during the Campaign of France and present at Craonne, Sens, Laon, La Fère-Champenoise and Paris.

The 27th Regiment of Dragoons

Created in 1674 by Count Victor-Maurice de Broglie. Named the Royal-Normandie in 1762. Became the 19eme Régiment de Cavalerie in 1791 to be renumbered the following year as the 18eme. Retitled the 27eme Régiment de Dragons in 1803 and disbanded in August 1814.



Dragoons' saddlery and harness.
A) Saddle and accessories of troopers, 1801 pattern. Note the patch attached to the skirt for a spare horseshoe and the 'boot' for the butt of the musketoon slung beneath the covered pistol holster.
A¹) The headstall and reins of troopers' horses, 1801 model.
B) Saddle and accessories of troopers, 1812 pattern. The bridle and reins remained the same as the 1801 pattern.
C) Saddle and accessories of officers for parade. A popular practice was to cover the front of the saddle with a black shabraque.

War record:
1805: Attached to the 4th Division of Dragoons of the Cavalry Reserve of the Grande Armée and engaged at Elchingen, Ulm and Austerlitz.
1806–1807: Remained with the same unit and fought at Biezun, Spanden and Friedland.
1808–1811: Part of the 4th Division of Dragoons of the 2nd Corps of the Army of Spain. Took part in the invasion of Portugal and was present at Corunna, the Ave passage, Oporto, Arzobispo, Albufera, Elvas and Las Vertientes.
1812–1813: With both the armies of Spain and the Midi and engaged at Villagarcia, Valencia de las Torres and Santa-Martha.
1813: Part of the 3rd Corps of Cavalry of the Grande Armée and fought at Neuss.
1814: Attached to the 6th Corps of Cavalry during the Campaign of France and engaged at Bar-sur-Aube and Arcis-sur-Aube.

The 28th Regiment of Dragoons
Raised at Saint-Germain in 1792 and named the 1er Corps des Hussards de la Liberté. Renamed the 7eme Régiment de Hussards (bis) in 1794. Became the 28eme Régiment de Dragons in 1803 and was dissolved in 1814.

War record:
1805–1811: Attached to the armies of Italy and Naples and present at Gaëte, La Piave and Wagram.
1812: With the Grande Armée at Smolensk, Borodino (La Moskowa) and Berezina.
1813: Fought with the Grande Armée at Dresden, Leipzig and Hanau.
1814: With the 1st Corps of Cavalry during the Campaign of France and engaged at Vauchamps and La Fère-Champenoise.

The 29th Regiment of Dragoons
Raised in Turin from the 11th Hussars in 1803 and named the 29eme Régiment de Dragons. Became the *6eme Régiment de Chevau-Légers Lanciers* in 1811. Renamed the Régiment de Lanciers de Berry in 1814 but returned to its previous title for the '100 Days' campaign. Disbanded at Carcassonne in December 1815.

War record:
1805: With the Army of Italy at Caldiero, the crossing of the Brenta, Vicence and San-Pietro.
1806–1808: Attached to the Army of Naples and engaged at Lauria and the Abruzzes campaign.
1809: Returned to the Army of Italy, fought at La Piave, Laybach, Raab and Wagram.
1812: Part of the 9th Brigade of Light Cavalry attached to the 3rd Corps of the Grande Armée at Krasnoe, Smolensk, Valoutina, Borodino, Viasma and Berezina.
1813–1814: With the 4th Division of Light cavalry of the 2nd Corps of Cavalry of the Grande Armée at Jauer, Leipzig and Hanau.
1814: Engaged at Champaubert, Montmirail, Vauchamps, Arcis-sur-Aube and Saint-Dizier during the Campaign of France.
1815: Part of the 6th Corps of Cavalry, then the 2nd Division of Light Cavalry attached to the 2nd Corps of the Armée du Nord, at the actions of Fleurus and Waterloo.

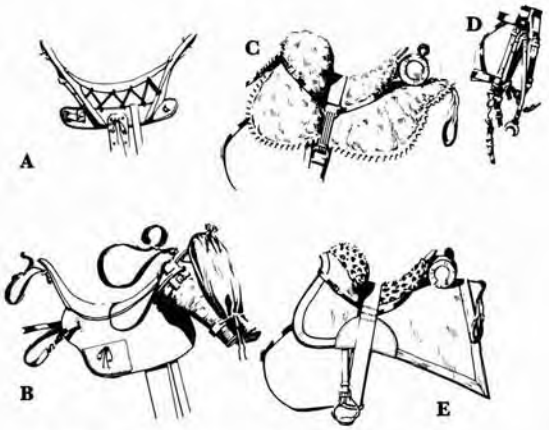
The 30th Regiment of Dragoons
Created at Moulins from the 12th Hussars in 1803 and named the 30eme Régiment de Dragons. The regiment was dissolved in October 1815.

War record:
1805: With the Army of Italy at Verona, Caldiero, Olmo, Citadella, Lestizza, Morsana, Villach,

Klagenfurth and Gaëte.
1809: Remained with the Army of Italy and engaged at the Tagliamento crossing, Udine, Gratz, Stein-am-Anger, the Danube crossing, Wagram, Nikolsburg and the Westernitz bridge action.
1812: With the Grande Armée at Bautzen, Dresden, Leipzig and the Rhine crossing.
1814: Fought at Brienne, La Rothière, Champaubert, Montmirail, Montereau, Arcis-sur-Aube, La Fère-Champenoise and Paris during the Campaign of France.

Sources

H. Bouchot, *L'Epopée du costume militaire française*
Commandant Bucquoy, (ed.) *Les uniformes et les armes des soldats du 1er Empire*
French Ministry of War, *Historique des corps de troupe française*
Job, *Tenue des troupes de France*
J. Regnault, *Les aigles perdus*
L. Rousselot, *L'Armée Française*
J. C. Quennevat, *Atlas de la Grande Armée*
J. C. Quennevat, *Les vrais soldats de Napoleon*
Numerous volumes of the journals *La Giberne* and *Le Sabretache*



Lancers' saddlery and harness.
A) The basic tree of the Hungarian-style light cavalry saddle employed by lancers.
B) The tree covered in leather, here we see the pistol holsters, the rolled greatcoat and the spare horseshoe pocket.
C) The saddle covered in the characteristic shabraque. The 'wolves' teeth' edging would be of the regimental colour. The middle-green portemanteau strapped behind the cantle was edged in yellow lace.
D) Troopers' bridle and reins as specified by the 1812 Regulations.
E) The officers' saddle complete with middle-green cloth shabraque, edged in gold lace, and leopard skin-covered pommel and seat.

The Plates

The Dragoons

A1: Brigadier of the élite company of the 22nd Dragoons, 1810.

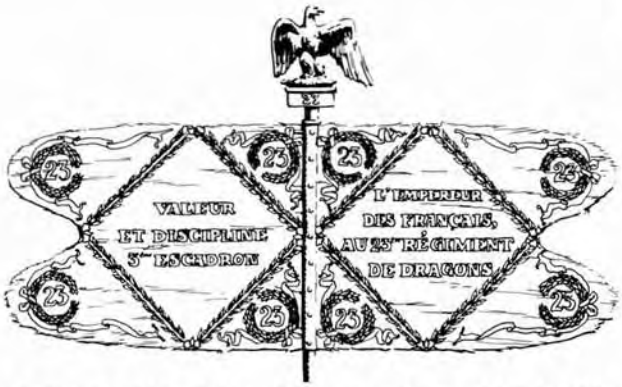
The fur bearskin and epaulettes of this NCO reveal his status as an élite cavalryman. Here scarlet, the ornaments adorning the head-dress of élite troopers of other regiments were frequently either white or red; another regimental variation was the wearing of aiguillettes about the left shoulder. Company, if not individual, differences include the addition of a copper grenade badge to the cartridge-pouch and the adoption of a solid belt buckle bearing the same grenade symbol.

Troopers would be dressed more or less identically, save for the rank stripes on the forearm, as would the officers, except for silver cords and tassels on the bearskin and silver epaulettes. Trumpeters were at this period (1810) dressed in reverse colours—lemon yellow tunic with middle-green facings—and sported a white plume with lemon yellow tip, for centre companies, or scarlet if élite; the facings were laced in white and white epaulettes or trefoils were worn. The regiment was at this time in the Peninsula.
(Illustration after Cmndt. Bucquoy)

A2: Brigadier of the 12th Dragoons in 'petite tenue'.

He wears the pre-1812 fatigue-cap, the popular surtout and overalls. This figure is unusual in several respects. The surtout tunic, most frequently plain, has here the collar of regimental colour, the rank insignia and the shoulder-straps of the habit (as worn by *A1*). The overalls are devoid of the leather-reinforced inside leg and cuffs, and buttons the length of the outer seams, but supplemented by twin flap pockets.

As of 1812, dragoons were issued with fatigue-caps of the Pokalem variety, as that of *E2*, but with a grenade or regimental number patch on the front. At this period, troopers would wear a similar surtout, but from 1809 it was no longer issued to any bar NCO's and officers.
(Illustration after Benigni)



Eagle and guidon of the 23rd Dragoons. The total height of the eagle was 2.10 metres and the guidon measured 70 × 60 centimetres. Many eagles and guidons were lost during the wars at the following engagements:
1805 campaign: **Battle of Haslach:**
—That of the 2nd Squadron of the 15th Dragoons.
—That of a squadron of the 17th Dragoons.
1812 campaign:
—At Viasma: that of the 28th Dragoons.
—At Berezina: that of the 3rd Lancers.
Peninsula campaign:
—At the capitulation of the Madrid arsenal: that of the 13th Dragoons.

A3: Trooper of the 4th Dragoons in campaign dress.

This trooper on campaign in the Peninsula wears the familiar dragoon helmet and tunic. The tunic or habit was secured by a series of hooks and eyes down the breast; the skirts were folded back into turnbacks, stitched together and adorned with the grenade symbol common to heavy troops. He carries the familiar An XIII pattern sabre.

Of considerable interest are his baggy saroual-style trousers. Frequently obliged to replace their breeches and overalls as best they could on campaign, many French troops are represented in the Peninsula as having trousers made of brown fabric filched from stocks destined for the fabrication of monks' habits; this rough and ready material was very hard-wearing. Short ankle gaiters gather the trousers at the lower calf, a practical measure in a world without bicycle clips. The red stripes on the figure's left upper arm indicate that the wearer has seen between sixteen and twenty years service.
(Illustration after Fort)

B1: Musician of the 16th Dragoons in parade dress, 1810.

Musicians were attached to all regiments of this period, either on a permanent basis or hired as occasion demanded. The distinctive dress of musicians as often as not consisted of the simple replacement of the epaulettes by trefoil shoulder-straps on a trumpeter's habit. In this case, however, he wears white-fringed epaulettes on a tunic identical to that of the troops except for the lace on the facings. This was no doubt a move towards economy, since trumpeters of this regiment wore habits of pink cloth faced in middle-green with white lace. Musicians were issued bicorns instead of helmets. These black felt head-dresses were permeable and were therefore covered in a protective waterproof cloth on campaign. The tall plume inserted behind the cockade was worn solely in parade dress and was otherwise packed in the portemanteau of the saddle.
(Illustration after Fort)

B2: Maréchal des Logis Chef of the 12th Dragoons, 1813.

This senior NCO of the élite company demonstrates the changes in dress of dragoons post-1812. Although the 1812 Regulations prescribed that thereafter élite troops were to adopt the helmet common to all dragoons with the sole distinction of a red plume, the *Masses d'Habillement* edited by Magimel in 1812 relates the retention of the bearskin for dragoons, chasseurs and hussars. This contradiction left the matter to the personal decision of the colonel of each regiment.

The figure wears the new habit-veste; fastening to the waist (again by hooks and eyes) and with considerably shorter skirts, this garment was issued to all line regiments. The facing colours remained identical to those of the old habit. As rank distinctions, we note the silver lace on both forearms and the silver crescents on the red epaulettes, distinctive of élite companies. Also of note is the 'wolves' teeth' cut of the leather reinforcements of his overalls—a popular cut throughout the Empire period.
(Illustration after Benigni)

B3: Trumpeter of a centre company of the 1st Dragoons in campaign dress, 1810.

This fellow illustrates a fairly frequent departure from the normal practice of dressing trumpeters in the reverse colours of those of the troops. The tunic

adopted is the ordinary surtout decorated on the collar and down the breast with orange lace. The lace is stitched around five of the nine buttons of this high-waisted garment. Normally devoid of colour on the turnbacks, this surtout has turnbacks of regimental colour and green grenade patches thereon. He wears the usual pattern of overalls save for the strip of regimental colour piping along the length of the outer leg. He holds the standard cavalry trumpet as drawn in the Bardin MS of 1812. The cord and tassels, most frequently of yellow and green mixed thread, are in this case red.

Numbering two per squadron, trumpeters rode greys instead of bays or chestnuts. Their riding with the squadron into action necessitated the numerous differences in dress and mount so that they might be readily found for the speedy transmission of orders.
(Illustration after the Marckolsheim MS)

C1: Trumpet-Major of the 13th Dragoons in campaign dress, 1808–1813.

The pink surtout tunic with middle-green facings is typical of the reverse colour method of distinguishing trumpeters. The silver lace and rank insignia would also decorate his habit, as would the silver grenade devices on the turnbacks and the silver service stripes on his left arm. This figure also wears overalls of similar cut and pattern to breeches; note the gaiters worn over them (to which attach the boot straps). His waist-belt is secured by a solid buckle with the flaming grenade symbol embossed upon it, a popular deviation.

A trumpeter of the same regiment has been recorded by the pen of El Guil in the Peninsula. His dress is identical save for the rank stripes and the substitution of white for silver lace. His helmet has been covered by a green protective cloth and, more interestingly, his saddle-cloth too with black, waxed fabric.
(Illustration after Fort)

C2: Chef de Sapeurs of the 19th Dragoons, c.1810.

His regular habit is garnished with silver rank distinctions, service stripes and the famous crossed-axe patches of sappers. We notice that the red epaulettes' fringes are of mixed ponceau and silver thread. His profession is indicated by the large and lethal axe he is engaged in sharpening, the long buff apron and the bearskin. Dragoons were the only type of cavalry to enjoy the privilege of sappers, a tradition descended from the times when dragoons were strictly mounted infantrymen. His bearskin is without its red plume and white cords; their removal was common practice while on active service lest they became unnecessarily worn or damaged.

Of interest is the copper Medusa's head badge on his axe-case crossbelt. Such ornament was not unusual on the crossbelts of both sappers and élite troopers, though it might equally take the form of a grenade device.
(Illustration after Valmont)

C3: Trumpeter of the élite company of the 25th Dragoons in parade dress, 1813.

This figure demonstrates not only the change to Imperial Livery by most regiments after 1812, but also the distinguishing features of élite trumpeters. The helmet has the white crest accorded to trumpeters with the addition of a red plume distinctive of élite troops. The tunic is the type specified in the 1812 Regulations, for which a special lace was devised. The lace was an alternating design of capital N's (for Napoleon) and Imperial eagles, and came in two varieties, the one for horizontal and the other for vertical use. The front of the coat was fastened with nine buttons descending to the waist, of which five had horizontal lace embellishment not dissimilar to that on the tunic of illustration *B3*; the lace employed was, of course, the same as we see here decorating the rear of the habit. The epaulettes are further indication of this trumpeter's élite status.

In this case, the trumpet cords and tassels are the familiar mixed green and yellow variety. Trumpet banners, so frequent pre-1812 for parade dress, were by now discontinued owing to the imbalance between their cost and their utility.
(Illustration after Roux from 'La Giberne')

D1: Sous-Lieutenant of the 9th Dragoons in walking-out dress, 1805.

This officer sports the popular surtout often worn in all but parade-dress. Peeping above the collar is the

starched collar of his chemise. This garment was worn beneath a waistcoat which is in this case round-bottomed and possibly double-breasted. His breeches are plain, but Hungarian breeches, with matching middle-green knots astride the front flap edges and lace down the outer seams, were not unusual. His boots are of the Hungarian pattern; similar ones with the addition of silver tassels in the V's of the front were not uncommon. The tall bicorn was worn in both walking-out and ball dress. Heavy silver tassels were frequently added to the corners to make for still grander appearance. The slim-bladed épée shown here was one of many patterns carried by officers in ball and walking-out dress; of note is the finer knot attached to it than that tied to the sabre. This particular model of épée was also issued to musicians.
(Illustration after Benigni)

D2: Superior officer of the 20th Dragoons, campaign dress, 1806.

This officer in pre-1812 uniform wears a helmet of slightly different pattern to that of *D3*. As the habits became of slimmer cut with the influence of civilian high-fashion, so the helmets became increasingly Grecian in aspect; this model has the distinctive rosaces and fur-less peak of the early varieties. The tunic is intrinsically no different from that of the rank and file, though made of finer fabric and equipped with silver buttons and grenade patches. His overalls are, unusually, buff with twin hip-height, flapped pockets secured by single, cloth-covered buttons.
(Reconstruction)

D3: Colonel of the 12th Dragoons in campaign dress, 1814.

This senior officer is wearing the new habit-veste of officer pattern. Essentially the same as that issued to the troops, it has longer tails, is made of superior cloth and has silver buttons and heavy bullion epaulettes. His helmet is of the more elegant and expensive kind habitually worn by officers. Of note are the fine plume and the knotted horsehair mane of this headgear which, with the leopard skin turban, speak of the rank of the owner. Worthy of attention are his black, cuffed leather gloves and black leather swordbelt, a departure from the norm which was no doubt afforded by his position.
(Illustration after Benigni)

The Lancers

E1: Trooper of the élite company of the 2nd Lancers in parade dress, 1811–1814.

Here we see the standard uniform of troopers of Chevau-légers Lanciers for parade dress. The dragoon pattern helmet is embellished with a horsehair crest and back-peak. The red plume indicates his belonging to an élite company, as do the epaulettes, in lieu of shoulder-straps, on the habit. Unlike the similar habit-veste of dragoons, this tunic could not only be fastened by hooks and eyes, but also by crossing either of the lapels across the chest to button up on the opposite side—thereby obscuring the facing colour, as on *E3*. The Hungarian breeches are tucked into Hungarian boots piped and adorned with tassels on their upper edge. The lace on the breeches was standard for the 1st through 4th Regiments, but the 5th and 6th opted for Hungarian knots on either side of the front flap instead of the reversed 'arrow-head'. Of note is the copper grenade badge on the crossbelt, a common addition by troops of élite companies of both dragoons and lancers.
(Illustration after Rousselot)

E2: Maréchal-Ferrant in stable dress, 1811–1814.

His profession is indicated by the red horse-shoe patch on the right upper arm of his plain stable jacket. The tools of his trade are conveniently tucked into the folds of his hitched-up apron, ready at a moment's notice to enable him to reshoe a mount.

Carelessly slung on a branch behind his head is his fatigue-cap. Of the Pokalem model, this head-dress was common to both lancers and dragoons of this period, proving a more practical type than its predecessor. Its descending ear-flaps were a neat arrangement, buttoned under the jaw when in use, or to the copper buttons on each side of the cap with the ends slipped inside the turban, when not. The crossed lances on the front were sometimes replaced by the regimental number.
(Illustration based on Leliepvre)

E3: Trooper carabinier of the 5th Lancers, early 1812.

Originally, musketoons were reserved only for chevau-légers carabiniers, to whom a second crossbelt was issued to which it might be clipped. The figure is wearing just such a belt over his left shoulder, the musketoon clip resting against the cartridge-pouch. He carries his waistbelt in his hand and we can see the bayonet frog which was attached to the middle section of the sabre belt. We notice that, unlike the élite trooper next to him, he has simple shoulder straps instead of epaulettes on his tunic and that the lapels have been crossed over to reveal but a narrow strip of piping of the facing colour. The overalls are non-regulation in that they are grey instead of the prescribed medium green, and have no lace along the outer leg.
(Illustration based on Rousselot)

F1: NCO Porte-Etendard of the 3rd Lancers in campaign dress, 1812.

This Maréchal des Logis Chef standard bearer was accorded the honour of carrying the regimental standard owing to his being the eldest NCO of the élite company. The rank insignia on his forearms are gold, while his epaulettes are fringed with mixed gold and ponceau thread. On his left upper arm are two service stripes denoting between sixteen and twenty years service. His swordknot is worth noting in that the tassel is of the same mixture of threads as his epaulette fringing.

The standard, or Eagle as it was more correctly termed, was a total height of 2.10 metres; the flag proper was 55 × 55cm and edged with a golden fringe 2.5cm in width. For parades, a tricolour scarf was tied in a bow about the Eagle socket.
(Illustration after Rigondaud)

F2: Brigadier of the 3rd Lancers, 1811–1814.

Here we can clearly see the new model overcoat issued to lancers and dragoons as of 1812. It has four cloth-covered buttons on the cape and five on the body with which to fasten the whole. The crossbelts would be worn over the top of the coat proper, with the cape to protect them. His rank is denoted by the chevrons of lace on each forearm of the tunic and by the slightly modified shape of the helmet. His overalls are the official pattern and colour; that is, concurring with the Decree of 15 July 1811 in being of the same middle-green as the tunic, having black leather inserts and bearing a broad stripe of lace in the regimental colour down the outer leg.
(Reconstruction)

F3: Trumpeter of the élite company of the 1st Lancers in campaign dress, 1813.

This figure portrays nicely the front of the Imperial Livery worn by trumpeters of lancers and dragoons after 1812. We note the button-hole lace about five of the nine breast buttons, and the seven chevrons of similar lace down both arms. This fellow has, of course, the red epaulettes distinctive of élite troops on his tunic, where a trumpeter of a centre company would have white. Of interest is the addition of copper buttons on the regimental lace down the outer seams of his overalls. Also, the trumpet cord has been plaited, a fairly common practice infrequently illustrated by modern artists. Instead of the familiar frame or solid buckles, this trumpeter's swordbelt is held together by a serpent-S clip more often seen on officers' belts than those of the troops.
(Illustration after Roux from 'La Giberne')

G1: Trumpeter of the élite company of the 1st Lancers in parade dress, 1815.

With the brief Restoration of 1814, trumpeters were issued tunics of Royal Livery—dark blue with white and crimson lace—to replace the Livery of Napoleon. With the return of the Emperor in 1815, there was no time to change the dress again and it was decided simply to substitute white lace, cheap and plentiful, for the Royal white and crimson. The result is the uniform of this trumpeter; the breeches, boots and headgear remain identical to those worn pre-Restoration but the white-laced, dark blue tunic reveals the hasty preparation of the unit for the '100 Days' campaign in Belgium.

The trumpet banner, no doubt rolled up and hidden away in the regimental stores during Louis XVIII's purge of all things Imperial, has been affixed to the trumpet, a rare sight in post-1812 cavalry regiments who could ill-afford this luxury.
(Illustration after the Boersch Collection)

G2: Trumpeter of a centre company of the 3rd Lancers in campaign dress, 1812.

This and the following figure illustrate the dress of trumpeters prior to the change to the Imperial Livery as worn by *F3*. His tunic is the reverse colour of that issued to the troops and the facings consequently take on the basic middle-green of lancer uniforms, edged in lace. We can see yellow eagle patches on the turnbacks which, unlike those of the preceding figure, are devoid of decorative lace. The lapels have been buttoned to the right, obscuring the laced facings, and we can discern a small copper button on the crossbelt indicative of the presence of the musketoon sling (the button held the cartridge-pouch and musketoon belts together).

He has wrapped a waterproof cloth about his helmet to protect the metal from the elements and it is clear that the large hair crest has been removed and placed in his portemanteau for safekeeping. Tied to the front is a second wrap-round which, when untied, would be lowered to protect the wearer's ears. The cuffs at the bottom of his overalls are considerably longer than those illustrated so far and are seemingly intended to give the false impression that he is wearing boots, a common stratagem on overalls later in the century but fairly rare in this period.
(Illustration based on Rousselot)

G3: Trumpeter of the élite company of the 5th Lancers in campaign dress, 1812.

He wears a single-breasted, short tunic of the same pattern as adopted by some officers for secondary dress. It is the colour of the regiment's facings but is without the expected middle-green collar and turnbacks. This garment was no doubt an updated surtout with short skirt, embellished only at the collar—with lace—and shoulders—with the familiar red epaulettes of élite troops. His swordbelt buckle is ornamented with an Imperial eagle rather than the grenade or capital N symbol so frequently seen on these solid buckles. His overalls are those prescribed by the Decree of 15 July 1811, with leather inserts and stripe of regimental-coloured lace down the outer seams to which copper buttons were sewn.
(Illustration after Marckolsheim MS)

H1: Major of the 6th Lancers in parade dress, 1811–1814.

This figure illustrates the rear of the officers' pattern habit-veste which is, again, no different from that of the rank and file other than the gilt buttons and eagle patches on the turnbacks. The individual's rank is indicated by the silver-bodied, heavy gold epaulettes and the four arrow-heads of lace (one of which is silver) on the front of the breeches. His swordbelt is identical to that of *H2*, as are his costly cartridge-pouch and crossbelt. Note that, in the same manner as dragoon officers, lancer officers' helmet turbans were of leopard skin.
(Illustration after Rousselot)

H2: Sous-Lieutenant of the 5th Lancers in campaign dress, 1813.

This colourfully-dressed fellow wears the standard officers' version of the lancers' habit-veste, differing from that of the troops solely in its finer quality and gilt buttons. His overalls follow the officers' frequent predilection for fabric of the regimental colour; they have scarlet lace, edged with gold piping, and gilt buttons. His equipment is of interest: the pouch-belt, identical to that of *H1*, has been covered in a crimson wrap to save it from the everyday wear and tear of active service; his swordbelt and slings are of black leather wired with gold, an expensive foible.
(Illustration after the Freyberg MS)

H3: Sous-Lieutenant of the 2nd Lancers in campaign dress, 1811–1814.

His single-breasted tunic, identical in ornament to the habit-veste, was a popular garment for officers, replacing the more expensive habit-veste on campaign. His cartridge-pouch crossbelt is of black leather and bears gilt badges of an Imperial crown and a shield; in parade dress a gilt chain would be added, linking the two. The swordbelt has the familiar serpent-S type buckle, in this case augmented by decorative plaques featuring the head of Hercules. The overalls are plain except for the single stripe of regimental coloured lace down the outer leg.
(Illustration after Leliepvre)